

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXII.]

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MARRIAGES.

On 11th August, at Shanghai, PETER FENWICK to LIZZIE STEWART.

On 13th August, at Amoy, by the Right Rev. Bishop I. Clemente, and in the presence of G. E. Anderson, U.S. Consul, WILLIAM HENRY BRENNAN, Imperial Maritime Customs, to MAY HELEN, younger daughter of A. BRINCARD, of San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A.

DEATHS.

On 30th April, in the Red Sea, on voyage home, STANLEY KEITH GORDON, aged 25, second son of the late Captain R. GORDON, R.A.M.C., late of India-China S. N. Co.'s service.

On 27th July, at Canton, of typhoid, JOHN H. THOMAS, aged 35, late Secretary, Masonic Club, Shanghai.

On 2nd August, at Kuling, BERYL JOY, infant daughter of EDITH and WALTER J. CLENNELL (H.B.M. Consul, Kiukiang).

On 5th August, at Shanghai, JOHN CALLAWAY.

On 6th August, at Shanghai, CHEN O-TING, Director of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway Administration, aged 59 years.

On 6th August, at Shanghai, Mrs. THOS. WALLACE, aged 62 years.

On 8th August, at Shanghai, WILLIAM EDWARD HUNT, Silk Inspector, aged 56 years.

On 12th August, at Kurrageen, 7, Peak Road, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. SHELLIM.

On the 19th inst., at Hongkong, Maria Francisca, the dearly beloved wife of Alvaro G. da Rocha.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of July 18th arrived, per the ss. *Preussen*, on Wednesday, the 16th instant; and the French Mail of July 21st is due to arrive, per ss. *Ernest Simons*, some time to-morrow.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Tientsin saw its first electric light (as a public illuminant) on the 1st instant.

The *Chung Ngoi San Po* states that fighting is still going on in the Hoi-fung district of Waichow, resulting in many deaths.

The Chinese *Jih Jih* claims good authority for saying that the Government at Peking is seriously thinking of adopting a gold currency standard.

A Peking Imperial Edict authorises Na Tung, with Japanese assistants, to establish a system of gendarmerie throughout the city, on the Japanese model.

It is reported that the directors of the Hongkong Cotton Company are about to declare a ten per cent dividend; and to carry a large sum to reserve.

The Green Island Light is to be changed next new year. A round brick tower is to be built 58 feet high, and the light will be visible 18 nautical miles away.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Fitton, D.S.O., Royal West Kent Regiment, arrived on August 16th per s.s. *Ceylon* from Malta on appointment to command 2nd Battalion.

We understand that the steamers on 13th inst. brought down to Hongkong upwards of 4,000 Chinese passengers, who were scared by the earth tremors at Macao.

There are fears of an anti-foreign movement at Soochow. The boycott is becoming political. It is stated that the Governor of Newchwang "threatens the boycott's death."

A very rich coal mine in the village of Tzu-chia-wu in the Western Hills, Peking, is about to be worked by a Chinese merchant named Chang, who has had the mine surveyed by a Belgian engineer who estimates the output at 2,000,000 catties a day.

A Kolaohui Society rising is reported from Puchoufu, Shansi, but it appears to be a purely local affair. One hundred and forty soldiers are missing, but it is not considered probable that they have been killed. The Taiyuanfu officials are sending a large force with artillery to suppress the rebels.

As a motor car driven by Mr. McKirdy was going down Morrison Hill, Basil Thomas, the nine-year old son of Mr. G. E. Thomas, ran across the road and was knocked down. Dr. Bell, who happened to be at the Golf Club at the time, examined the lad and found his thigh fractured. He ordered his removal to the Government Civil Hospital, where he was detained for treatment.

The new cargo str. *Den of Crombie* arrived at Shanghai on August 5th from Liverpool, on her maiden trip to the East. She is a vessel of 2,990 tons net register, with a carrying capacity of 7,000 tons. On the voyage out she met with an accident, losing two of her propeller blades in the Indian Ocean, but put into Trincomalee, where the necessary repairs were effected.

Fifty natives appeared before the Magistrate at the Police Court on Aug. 18 charged with creating a nuisance by the burning of Joss paper in the streets while celebrating the devil's festival. Forty-nine of the defendants were fined \$5 each, but the fiftieth, who expectorated on the Court floor before Mr. Orme had passed sentence was fined \$5 and an additional \$2 for misbehaviour.

Heat apoplexy claimed another victim at Shanghai on August 5th in the person of Mr. John Callaway, formerly, when he was in the employ of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, a very well-known figure there. He has been lately on the staff of the Woosung Railway. He was taken to the General Hospital and died six hours after admission. This appears to be the fourth death from heat.

Arrangements have been made by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha for the opening of a weekly service between Osaka and Port Arthur, with Nagasaki as one of the ports of call. The first steamer in this service was the *Kanko-maru*, sailing from Osaka on the 15th inst., and from Nagasaki on the 19th. The rates of passage from Nagasaki to Port Arthur are yen 33 for the first class, yen 22 for the second class, and yen 12.50 for the third class.

The oilsteamer *Perlak* is burning outside Woosung. The *Perlak* is a new steamer flying the Dutch flag. She was laden with Sumatra benzine in tins. She has been badly burned out, outside Woosung, her bows being under water and the screw well above water. She is still adrift, being too hot to handle. The engineer and three volunteer firemen from the fire-boat have been taken to the hospital, badly burned. Two or three Chinese were killed.

It has been understood for some little time that the China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd., was to be amalgamated with the Union Insurance Society of Canton, says the *N.-C. Daily News*. In their Share Report of the 10th inst. Messrs. J. A. Sullivan & Co. write, under the heading "China Traders":—"We are credibly informed that the old name, after the amalgamation, will not disappear, but that the company will formally pass under the management of the Union Insurance Society of Canton who will assume control and direction of the China Traders' business, and arrangements will be made to pay off the present staff of the company in a liberal manner."

CHINA'S NATIVE PRESS,

(Daily Press 12th August).

There is not quite so much emphasis put nowadays on the influence of the Press. Whether it be demoralisation or merely commercialism, newspapers are as often called echoes of public opinion as moulders or leaders thereof. In China, however, it appears that the Press has not yet reached the stage of comparative insignificance that Western journalism is supposed to occupy. There is a gentleman in Hongkong whose learning is so great that he is able to read both Chinese and Japanese journals; and in the case of the former, he has had experiences which convince him of the enormous power wielded by the vernacular papers. Of the South China native Press men it may be truthfully said that "ideas are their weapons and newspapers their fortresses." It appears that this is partly because native journalism locally is still in the period of strenuous and hopeful youth. The Canton correspondent of a northern contemporary remarks that:

"The native Press of China, at least of the South of China, has grown up within the last twenty years. We remember when editors were harassed and their offices confiscated, if they published anything less harmless, and more interesting than the *Peking Gazette*. It may be confessed that the Hongkong native Press, whose roots struck deep in the island, but whose branches spread out over the Kwantung province, had much to do with the present vigour of the native newspapers here. When complaints were made to the Hongkong officials by the Canton mandarins, that government matters, hitherto so sacred, were handled with a rough irreverence, they got little comfort and less assistance. Freedom of the Press was the rule in the colonies of Great Britain; Hongkong was a colony, therefore the editors could not be coerced. The consequence was that the mandarins, seeing that they were helpless, submitted to the inevitable. After a time, when nothing very serious happened, either to their revenues or to their harems, and in those days they did not seriously care for very much beyond these two absorbing interests, they ceased to be so obviously anxious, and so a native Press developed not only in Hongkong but in the city of Canton, which to-day is no small industry, and no unimportant factor in the life of the great city."

This authority gives to the native Press of Canton a much higher character than we imagined it deserved, describing its news as trustworthy and valuable, and its policy that of guiding and fostering public opinion. "Sometimes," we are told, the native editor "comes very near" to realising this ambition. But often, we have previously learned, they depart far from it. We are bidden now to admire the way in which they "lash out on the corrupt Government, and at particular officials," and believing that these objects deserve all the castigation, we would not refuse were it not for a conviction that the usefulness of it is impaired by their habit of lashing out all round, like a camp mule. Naturally, the Canton papers have been earnest supporters of the boycott; and according to custom, they have been bitterly resenting the utterances of all who could not, like themselves, "go the whole hog." YUAN SHIH-KAI is not one to accuse of pro-American and anti-Chinese feelings, yet because he was able to see more than one side of the question, and felt it his duty to warn the agitators that they were not going the best way to achieve their objects,

he has been the subject of the peculiarly viperish and hysterical comments of which our Canton contemporaries are capable when they try. We note that there are further signs of weakening in the native press at Shanghai, and that some of the writers who most diligently fanned the flame appear now to be alarmed at the result. They are appealing now to reason, where before they appealed to passions; and, but for the things that foredoomed the movement to abortion, they would appeal in vain perhaps. The power of the native press of South China, real as it is, does not rest upon this capacity for abuse; but upon the power of publicity. There were things which, hushed up and hidden, could endure; but which, exposed as the Chinese papers expose them, are obliged to disappear. If they do strive after trustworthy presentation of facts, and more temperate comment, our native contemporaries will yet work wonders in bringing about a real union of the Chinese, by which great deeds will be possible. But that is the only way.

SHARE QUOTATIONS.

(Daily Press, 14th August).

Share lists are by no means unpopular reading in the home countries, but it is doubtful if they appeal to so large and varied a circle of readers as they do out here, where the average price of stocks is comparatively lower, and almost everybody a speculator or investor. It is perhaps a pity that the methods and accuracy of the European lists cannot be imitated in China. Even in London, where the prices are tabulated from the official list of the Stock Exchange, or direct from the market representatives of the Exchange Telegraph Company (tape prices), filled up in some cases by late advices from brokers, it is sometimes alleged that the prices as published are very misleading; and brokers have to complain that in consequence their relations with their clients are sometimes unsettled, the client placing implicit faith in all he reads in his favourite paper. Local quotations are shorn of the double price puzzle, perhaps because local clients are believed to be in need of the simplest possible form of presentment; but we doubt if the lists can ever indicate so justly the state of the market as do the familiar columns of, say, the *Times*. For instance, we have at the end of the week just over compared several of the lists published in the colony, and noted several unaccountable discrepancies. Three of them quote "closing" prices by adding an explanatory word, "sales", "buyers", "nominal", "sellers", and so on. This ought to be clarity itself, and perhaps if properly managed, it might be. But how are these prices obtained? We note in a northern contemporary a humorous suggestion that when the market is as stagnant as it admittedly now is at Hongkong, all quotations are nominal, and that the local association of brokers holds a fane in science to decide what those quotations shall be. Apart altogether from such joking, it is difficult to account for the diversity of rates to be discovered in the last three lists available for comparison. One well-known and old established company has its stock variously quoted on the same day at "\$14 sales," "\$15 sellers," and "\$11 sales." Wide prices are necessary when the market happens to be nervous, as we believe is the case with the stock selected; but those are altogether too wide. Sales at eleven and a half mean to the interested reader of the share list, especially if he contemplates selling, buyers at something less,

possibly eleven and a quarter, which in turn makes the pretensions of the "sellers at \$15" somewhat ridiculous. At present these lists give no useful indication of the condition of the market, the explanatory words being as misleading as the figures. One stock is quoted with unanimity as to price, but while one gives it a selling price, others give it as merely nominal. Whether this looseness is indicative of the calibre of the clients, who know very little themselves of the signs and are content to trust to others to tell them; or whether it is because there is really no proper system of ascertaining the actual feeling of the market, we cannot say. It seems to us desirable that these things, which are commonplace to professionals, ought to be better understood by the people whose capital or whose savings are augmented or diminished by the fluctuations the quotations are supposed to index. If the double quotations were reverted to, the embryo financiers would soon understand which means selling and which buying and that even then "you cannot always go by the papers"; as then the tendency would be to keep slightly outside the actual figures. The actual transactions of the market are never anywhere truthfully reported: reports may be true, but not the whole truth; and so these alleged "sales" have to be weighed against others not mentioned. There is no clue to these "sellers," whether it means that money is so tight that many holders of big holdings are willing to sacrifice a third of their investments to realise the rest, or only one or two nervous small-fry, sharing the nervousness. It might mean either at present. Perhaps the committee of the local 'Change will take the opportunity of the existing slackness to consider ways and means of getting out reports that will enable the public better to understand just what is going on.

THE BOYCOTT MOVEMENT AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 15th August.)

Hongkong, as we have on several previous occasions pointed out, has for various reasons enjoyed comparative immunity from the turmoil and trouble incidental to the performances of Boycott demagogues. It was, of course, against nature that the natives here, many of them imbued with the pugnacity of the men of Canton, should feel reconciled to inglorious inaction during such a pretty fight; such a unique opportunity, from their point of view, for making history. We are led to believe, by a well informed representative of the Chinese community, that there has been an actual disinclination amongst the really responsible members thereof to join in the movement; but that latterly their hands have been forced by its popularity. It is not difficult to understand that great discretion was and is required in arranging to support such an agitation within a British colony; and we are curious to learn how it came about that Saturday's meeting of the Chinese Commercial Union came to be attended by such a rabble—about eight hundred irresponsible, we are told, presuming to express disapproval of the official communique which forbade the holding of the meeting. The members of that Union had, we suppose, at least a tacit right to assemble *qua* Union; but the members could scarcely have been ignorant of the requirements and restrictions of the Ordinance of 1888, for the Regulation of Chinese. Clauses 49 and 50 of

Chapter VII., referring to "placards" and "meetings," are as follow:

"No person shall post up or exhibit or cause to be posted up or exhibited in or near any street any public notice or proclamation in the Chinese language without the permission of the Registrar General. The Registrar General may refuse such permission whenever he considers that the publication of such notice or proclamation would be prejudicial to peace or good order.

No Chinese shall hold or be present at any Chinese public meeting whatever, not being a meeting solely for religious worship, without a permit under the hand of the Governor, which may be issued to the occupier of the house in or near which the meeting is to take place, or to the person convening such meeting."

The last clause dates from the year 1858 when provision was made for written licences which would permit "the holding of Meetings to consider in a lawful Way the Redress of supposed Grievances," an apt phrase when applied to the present affair. The first was originally a temporary provision, which was assented to by His Excellency W. H. MARSH in October 1884, "in view of the disturbed state of the Chinese population in this Colony." The wording was identical; and we can think of no subject more likely to prejudice "peace or good order" than the present boycott as it seems to be understood by the common people. The Government is admittedly anxious to be considerate and indulgent to the Chinese community; but we do not think for one moment that such placards as have been posted elsewhere will receive the required permission of the Registrar General. At present we hear of no application to use such placards; but it is quite clear that the typical meeting is not to soberly deliberate ways and means for carrying into effect a policy decided upon, but rather to spread the disturbing news of what at present must be described in the old-time phrase as "supposed Grievances." For President ROOSEVELT has promised that the real grievances shall be stopped: Mr. TAFT, Secretary of War, and other leading members of the American Cabinet, have lifted no uncertain voices in sympathy and encouragement of a bona-fide Chinese protest; and the only reasonable course for the Chinese, who have vindicated their spirit and shown their power, is to await the result of Wu Ting-Fang's mission to Washington. Yesterday the Chinese Commercial Union met and decided to petition His Excellency the GOVERNOR for permission to hold a public meeting. As such a meeting is now supererogatory, and as it seems almost impossible to keep these agitators to the point, when they do meet, we suppose it not unlikely that the applicants will be advised to defer their project to a more convenient season. Under the French Treaty of Tientsin, Article XIV., we understand the Chinese Government is being asked to stop the placards and meetings, which have quite got out of hand, so much so that some of the originators of the movement have taken alarm. By that Treaty, the Chinese Government undertakes to dissolve all associations whose action interferes with free competition in trade, or tends to the creation of monopolies in any form. These boycott assemblies have not only done that, but as recent news indicates, they have been seriously threatening foreign trade in general, and thus opening the way for a return to the intolerable state of things existing when foreign trade was undergoing its early struggles for a footing.

It is patent that in advocating the discouragement of the movement at this stage, our motives are above suspicion. A boycott of American commodities means an

immediate gain to all the others, British, German, French, Italian, and so on. With self interest like that to help, it is only natural that the Chinese should rely on the sympathy of all non-American traders. That they have not got it strengthens our opinion that the boycott has got out of hand through bad management and methods, and is now a common danger. It has behaved like fire—the simile has been used by a contemporary, but is too obvious to enjoy copyright—which is a "good servant but a bad master." The boycott is no longer servant to a cause, but master of a situation in which passions and prejudices whose overcoming has been the laborious task of years, threaten to overwhelm everything. And nothing can be lost by a "masterly inactivity" at this stage. The thing can be taken up again where it leaves off, if the mobs of Western America should get their way. It is eminently undesirable in the meantime, to take the local view of it, that Hongkong should be upset by a belated reinforcement of a movement that is already being discouraged in other places.

A MATTER OF PRESTIGE.

(Daily Press, 16th August.)

IN reproducing a short but forcible protest from the editorial columns of the *Singapore Free Press*, with whom we are able to sympathise in the matter, we should say that it comes too late. The announcement, made by us some time ago, that "General" BOOTH had promised to "convert Japan," seems to have given the impression that as yet the operations of the "Army" are unknown in Japan. This is not the case. Officers and uniforms and bands were in Japan before "General" BOOTH made his last Eastern tour. In the streets of Yokohama, and, we believe, Tokyo also, the procession of the "Salvation Army" had already been seen, and heard. Anything more melancholy, or ludicrous, or patently irreverent and indecorous, according to the point of view, than a native "hallelujah" cortege it would be difficult to describe. But first we may quote our contemporary, as follows:

"It is to be trusted for the sake of the dignity of the British side of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, that the Japanese Government will politely intimate to General Booth that his suggested Salvation Army campaign in Japan is entirely inexpedient, and cannot be sanctioned. It is all very well for the slummy and criminal classes of London and other big towns in what are called civilised countries to derive what benefit they can from the crude corybantic methods of the Salvation army. But to present these to our allies in Japan, as the type of British spiritual methods, will be to put Britain in a sorry position before a people so dignified and self-restrained as the Japanese. From his point of view General Booth means well, his ideas of sympathy and encouragement for the submerged tenth are admirable in their place, but as to the impolicy both political and spiritual, but chiefly the former as in our case the more important, of thrusting the Salvation army apparatus of trombone, tambourine and big drum on a nation inspired by such lofty ideals as the Japanese, could only result in vulgarising the English people in Japanese eyes. What is good and helpful in Whitechapel or Ratchiff Highway may be quite otherwise in Tokyo. And it is on sound political grounds that we believe it to be prejudicial to the relations between Japan and Britain that the Salvation army should be allowed to run loose through the towns and villages of Japan."

It certainly cannot enhance the prestige of the British nation: it is more than possible that it will prove derogatory. General BOOTH and his workers have undoubtedly realised one aspect of Christianity and worked up to it in a way that other sects

could not claim to have done. They have gone into the highways and byways as enjoined, and have played the good Samaritan; but they cannot pretend to have exhausted the field that lay before them, and in going to Japan they go too far. They have fallen from grace in imitating their rivals; and they threaten to wreak more mischief than the missionary societies whose operations are already known in the Orient. It has always been our opinion, apart altogether from the political point of view, that until the work that lies to their hands is accomplished, such associations have no logical justification for going abroad to seek for new worlds to conquer. Much sympathy undoubtedly went to the Salvation Army because—specifically because—it was taking up the duty that the others neglected in their zeal to provide the unconsciously sinful heathen of tropical lands with woolen comforters and Bowdlerised scriptures. Their intrusion into the foreign field of mission work, and especially their Chief's theatrical and timely announcement, savours strongly of the advertisement. They must forfeit all the tolerance, sympathy and even respect that they have earned in Europe, if they insist on pursuing their characteristic tactics in Asia. Even in Europe, where familiarity has reduced the shock to good taste and true reverence, they might have achieved as much by methods savourless of the circus: in Asia, the same methods are more unsuitable to the environment than many believe the creed itself to be. They are not only unsuitable: they are impossible, and useless. Japanese have always shown surprise, sometimes well-bred, sometimes not; and often they showed undisguised contempt and amusement when the raucous pietists made their public appearances. A homely illustration is, however, always more convincing than one drawn from outside; and there are, no doubt, readers who neither know nor care how the Japanese are likely to look upon these things. Let them, in order to understand the justice of and need for our contemporary's protest, imagine the effect of Salvation Army practices in China, and there will be little need to say more. There would not be so much incongruity, perhaps, as in Japan, for General BOOTH's soldiers out-Chinese the Chinese when it comes to a matter of noise; but the effect upon the Chinese mind would not be a wholesome one for the European resident to contemplate.

CABLE SERVICES.

(Daily Press, 17th August.)

WE have heard but little lately of the Pacific Cable connecting Vancouver with the Australian Colonies. The line carried out at the joint expense of the Canadian and Australian Governments, with considerable assistance from the British, has, in fact, fallen upon evil times, and the Governments concerned have for the last two years been called on to pay heavy sums towards its maintenance. It is curious to have to remark that this want of success has not occurred through any misconception on the part of the promoters, but is directly due to the jealous action of the Eastern Extension Companies. Alarmed at the threatened loss of their monopoly this complex of companies has been making almost superhuman efforts to retain its position, endangered by the construction of the trans-Pacific cables. The main object of the British Government in becoming a partner with the Canadian and Australian Colonies was the possession of an all-round British cable girdling the world. Inciden-

tally the part taken by the Cable Companies has been to thwart in every way this object. Before the federation of the Commonwealth the Eastern Extension Companies had been entering into private arrangements with some of the Australian colonies, more especially New South Wales. As presented to the colonies these agreements seemed eminently satisfactory, the more especially as the colonies obtained not only a reduction of the rates, which the companies acknowledged to be excessive under the circumstances, but the companies engaged to make a new chain of cables through the Indian Ocean connecting Australia with Mauritius and South Africa. The consideration required by the companies was that they should have for their cable messages the sole right of using the land lines. The colonies, probably not foreseeing its importance, omitted to have any time limit inserted in the agreement, and the companies taking advantage of the letter of the agreement refuse permission, except under prohibitory conditions, to the carriage of the telegrams sent by the government cable over the land lines. On the inauguration of the Commonwealth the Federal Government naturally desired to review these agreements, with the view of inserting a time limit. According to a recognised principle in law agreements of the nature of leases, as was this, unless a time limit be specified are non-effective; and the Federal Government brought the agreements before Parliament with the object of having the necessary limit inserted, as well as taking over the several rights of the separate states. The arts of obstruction seem to have been freely used in the discussion, and Parliament refused in 1903 to ratify the proposed agreement pending a reference to a congress of the representatives of the various Governments concerned in the cable. There is little doubt that this conclusion was the correct one under the circumstances, but for some reason or other the meeting of the convention has been unreasonably delayed, so it is satisfactory to learn that it is already in session. The members are essentially practical, including Lord JERSEY, formerly Governor of New South Wales, Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK, Post-Master-General of Canada, and the Hon. ALFRED LYTTETON. It is worthy of note that we in China are indebted to the construction of this cable for the reduction of the very heavy rates formerly charged. Still the Eastern Extension Company has very cleverly contrived to keep in its own hands the practical monopoly of the Far East. What arrangements it has made with the American Pacific Cable Company do not appear, but it is curious to observe that, as far as China is concerned, we hear little or nothing of that company. While, therefore, we have little immediate interest in the success of the Pacific cable, we have a certain amount of reversionary concern, and look with interest on the result of the Convention. Monopolies are not, in general, good for the advancement of trade, and frequently overreach themselves in their anxiety to gather all the benefits in their own hands. It may not be that the time has come for throwing open to all comers the telegraph service to China, but we hope that the subject may receive some recognition in the Conference, with the object of improving still further our communications generally in the Far East, which are still not altogether all that might be desired.

Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly & Potts are advised by wire that the Maatschappij tot Mijn-, Boschen Landbouwerexploitatie in Langkat has declared a third interim dividend of Tls. 2½ per share payable on the 15th proximo.

CHINESE AND JAPANESE ENTENTE.

(Daily Press 18th August.)

It has long been foreseen that the drift of events in the Far East indicated a rapprochement between China and Japan for the purposes of mutual protection. The direction in which this would take practical effect has naturally been considered to be in respect to Manchuria which is the most easily assailable part of China by her standing opponent, Russia, and which it was undoubtedly the design of that country to seize, had she not been prevented by the course of the war. The idea, which seemed to be dominant in the Russian mind was that, come what might from the war, there would be an opportunity of establishing herself in Manchuria in a manner in which she had not been able to do so before. If she succeeded in overthrowing the Japanese opposition, the way would of course be open to her to do what she liked as regards China, as there was little fear of European opposition, and the Chinese themselves were too weak to oppose her encroachments. The domination of Russia in Manchuria and possibly also in Mongolia was thus frankly admitted to be one of the stakes for which that country was willing to rush into war. This was obvious enough to most diplomatists and, indeed, did not require any great diplomatic talent to surmise. It was in view of this that the United States, with great foresight contrived on the eve of the war to conclude a treaty with China declaring Mukden to be open to foreign trade, thus asserting in a practical manner the fact that China and not Russia was the governing Power in that territory. As a matter of fact there can be no question that this position is absolutely correct. Indeed, it has not been denied by Russia herself, who over and over again promised to withdraw her troops from that country. Russia, however, with the too far sighted diplomacy for which she is celebrated, conceived the idea that she might obtain her coveted advantage in Manchuria as well by defeat as by victory in the war with Japan; and let it be known that if the chances of war went against her, she would still be able to find some excuse for keeping forces in Manchuria, and thus in the end, make the war a means towards attaining the object which she had in view. Unfortunately for her chance of success in this direction she has given utterance a little too freely to this ingenious idea. From time to time it leaked out that such a design was contemplated, and though it appeared to most people somewhat problematical, it could not be looked upon as altogether outside the range of practical fulfilment. Had the progress of the Japanese armies been less decisive and rapid, and had it been possible to arrange for peace with Japan while her forces occupied a less advanced position, the scheme of retaining a large number of troops in Manchuria might have been carried out, and some pretext of a quarrel with China found which would form a ground for continued occupation of Manchuria. This, no doubt, accounts for the frequency with which Russia of late has accused the Chinese of breaches of neutrality, at times, indeed, in a way, which, taking the actual facts into consideration, was little short of grotesque. The declaration made that troops would be carried through Mongolia in order to meet Japanese strategic movements was of a piece with this line of policy; and there can be little doubt that

the design of Russia was to assume an attitude which might lead to hostility towards China should it suit her to push matters in that direction. It is, however, somewhat strange that it appears to have been overlooked by Russia how serious a declared breach between her and China might be, and that if she forced that country into joining with Japan one effect would be that the Chinese navy would at once be at the disposal of the latter country. Possibly, judging from the past, Russia did not attach much importance to the Chinese navy, but from recent events, it is clear she might have discovered that she had made as great a mistake in this as in originally underestimating the strength of Japan. The Japanese, with the foresight which they have so markedly displayed, and which seems to amount almost to inspiration, have thoroughly seized the situation in this respect. It now appears that they have undertaken to build a number of warships for China and, in fact, it is stated they intend to practically create a new Chinese navy. What this may mean in the future is obvious. From what we know of the Chinese they are not a people likely by themselves to do great things with a navy. All our experience of them shows that they lack the courage and *esprit de corps* necessary for successful naval operations; but, even in this respect it would be a mistake to assume that this failing would be as apparent as past history would lead us to assume if the Chinese happened to act in conjunction with the Japanese, as would be likely to be the case if their navy were called into active service. What seems to be foreshadowed is an understanding between Japan and China to join forces to oppose any possibility of renewed Russian aggression upon either country. The most effective way to do this is manifestly for the two countries to possess between them such naval force as is bound to make it impossible to break the communication between Japan and the Korean and Chinese ports, so that at any time Japan may continue able to send forward sufficient forces to withstand any renewed attempts at encroachment in any direction. Such will be the future bearing of the matter; but it is equally interesting as showing what might have taken place had Russia succeeded in dragging China into the war. Had she done so, she would at once have given the Japanese the benefit of the Chinese navy which, in such skilled hands, might have been no insignificant factor. This certainly will be the situation in the future, and this change will have to be taken into account not only by Russia but by other foreign nations. It is likely, indeed almost certain, that the Chinese and Japanese will in future join hands to prevent European encroachments; and if Japan assists China, not only (as has long been the case in various directions) in regard to military organisation, but also in respect to her navy, it will clearly become very hazardous for any European nation to enter upon an aggressive war with either country. No doubt the effect of this must be to give large predominance to Japanese influence and, of course, it might be open to question whether this will be beneficial so far as foreign nations are concerned. On the whole, however, as matters stand, such a state of affairs would seem to be the best that can be arrived at as a means of avoiding the infinite complications which would arise through a dismemberment of China, and to afford a better hope for improvement and progress on the part of China herself than can be looked for in any other direction.

JAPAN AS A NATIONAL EXAMPLE

(Daily Press, 19th August).

It would perhaps be difficult to find a better illustration of the truth of the saying that nothing succeeds like success than in the somewhat extreme admiration for everything Japanese, which has of late become the fashion in Europe. While fully recognising the credit that is due to Japan for the wonderful progress which she has made in the arts both of peace and of war, we may still have some doubt as to whether there may not be a tendency to overrate the results that have been attained and to hastily conclude that the Japanese can be taken as a model of what should be done by all other nations. So far has this disposition gone, that we find a well informed political writer suggesting that the Russian Government would do well to adopt the Constitution of Japan, as that most suitable for securing the greatest liberty of the people combined with the fullest central authority. What, however, may do very well for Japan, may not prove suitable in Russia; and it may be taken as certain that that country is not likely to make any attempt at improving the internal administration upon Japanese lines, especially as the most salutary principle of the existing Japanese system is the degree of liberty which it accords to the individual—which is such as it is hardly likely, or indeed desirable, should be accorded in Russia. There is nothing in which it is a greater mistake to adopt any existing system without qualification than in respect to political Constitutions; and it may be hoped that the Russians will be better advised than to attempt to improve the internal state of the country by adopting wholesale the institutions either of Japan or of any other nation. There is, indeed, only one direction in which they can with confidence follow Japan, and that is the careful avoidance of this particular error. Where the Japanese have most conspicuously displayed their ability as statesmen has been in declining to believe exclusively in any one principle of government as a *sine qua non* or as a universal panacea. While admiring the free institutions of Great Britain and America they have been careful to take from them only so much as is clearly suitable to the circumstances and the peculiarities of their own country; and have thus been able to frame a constitution which is in accordance with their actual political wants. They have begun with the facts and then sought out, from the best sources, the principles which would best apply to them, and, by acting upon this practical basis, have arrived at results which promise to be permanently satisfactory. It is, however, open to very grave doubt whether, if she were likely to do so, Russia would derive any similar advantage from following in the wake of Japan, and adopting from her anything ready-made in the form of a constitution. The two countries are essentially different in regard to the most important factor of government, namely centralisation. Japan is territorially small and self-contained; and with a nation so situated it is naturally far easier to maintain central authority than in one widely diffused as is the case with Russia. The degree to which the central authority in any given country can be maintained is a very important factor in respect to the amount of local and individual liberty that can safely be accorded; and any mistake on this point is certain to lead to serious results, even though the constitution that is adopted appear in every way desirable upon merely abstract grounds.

Any change likely to be of permanent advantage in Russia would of necessity have to be of a gradual character; and would have to be specially adapted to the wants of that country. The less an attempt is made to borrow en bloc the institutions of other nations, the more prospect will there be of ultimate success.

This principle applies as much to China as it does to Russia. There has been an idea that the Chinese would make some great advance through following in the wake of Japan; but it must be borne in mind that the conditions of the two countries have always been essentially different. This fact is not likely to be overlooked by the Chinese, who are slow to admit that any nation in the world can teach them, and who will be careful how far they allow the Japanese to influence them, though of late there is evidence of their being disposed to learn lessons from their successful neighbour, which they have always been too opinionated to accept from European sources. By degrees they may find the means of some kind of reform upon the corrupt and inefficient government which has existed for so long; but this will probably be done rather by effecting individual reforms in special directions, than by adopting any sudden or violent change. In this, the Japanese can afford them valuable instruction, and, as friendly relations are likely to prevail between the two countries, it is not too much to hope that the leaven of progress which has affected Japan, may by degrees spread to China; but at best we may be sure this will only be the work of time.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 11th August.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT, CHIEF JUSTICE.

RE THE CHING HOP FIRM.

Mr. Goldring (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) appeared in this consolidated action on behalf of the debtors. He applied under section 18, sub-section 4 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, that the scheme of composition arranged be approved. The creditors had agreed to accept 30 per cent on the amount of their respective debts in three equal instalments. Payment of that amount was guaranteed by Yuen Chan Sing, master of the Wan Tai shop, and the arrangement was considered satisfactory by the creditors. He asked His Lordship to approve the scheme, as the solicitors representing the other creditors concurred.

His Lordship made an order that the scheme of composition be approved on payment of the expenses of the Official Receiver.

RE TAN JOO CHIN EX PARTE THE DEBTOR.

This was an application for a receiving order. Mr. Barlow—I appear in these two bankruptcies, Your Lordship, and have filed a notice for change of solicitors. Both bankruptcies were in my hands and I would ask Your Lordship to make an order for consolidation.

His Lordship—We will proceed with No. 33 and strike out No. 41.

Mr. Barlow—I should like to preserve my evidence in No. 41, as the debtor himself made the declaration contained therein.

His Lordship—I suppose I have power to alter the name from Tang to Tan.

Mr. Barlow—I think so.

His Lordship—I first make an order as to change of solicitors and that petition No. 41 be dismissed, but that the documents attached to that petition be filed as belonging to petition No. 33, with the alteration of the name from Tang to Tan.

Mr. Barlow—I would next ask for a receiving order on what is before Your Lordship.

Mr. Gedge—I appear for the Opium Farmers, the only creditors as far as we know, to oppose a receiving order being made. The declarations of Seah on Look and Tan Swee Kee, filed in support, show that debtor has assets to the amount of \$243,000 at various places, but all outside the jurisdiction of this honourable court. My friend and his client, the debtor, are relying to get a receiving order on the assets of these firms, but they must first bring them within the jurisdiction of this court.

His Lordship referred Mr. Gedge to section 118 of the English Bankruptcy Act, and asked him whether he did not consider, in view of a receiving order being made, that the Singapore authorities would help him to recover the money.

Mr. Gedge—That Act may work in England, but we are in Hongkong.

His Lordship—But that section applies, as it says, to any British court elsewhere, and it seems to me that the best thing you can do is to allow a receiving order to be made.

Mr. Gedge—We do not mind the receiving order. My Lord, so long as the man is kept in gaol. We want his assets brought within the jurisdiction of this court.

His Lordship—If there is no money within the jurisdiction of this court there is a great deal outside, and I suggest that under section 118 it is possible to get hold of that money.

Mr. Gedge—That section is not in force in this Colony, and it does not say anything about the courts in the Straits Settlements helping the court here.

His Lordship—The court in the Straits Settlements is a British court, and the section says that a British court shall help others elsewhere. If a receiving order is made I can request the Singapore court to act in aid of this court.

Mr. Gedge—If Your Lordship will excuse my saying so, if the man is kept in gaol the whole matter will be settled in a week.

His Lordship—I cannot consider that.

Mr. Gedge—It is very hard on the creditors that the debtor, who has incurred big liabilities in this Colony, and has plenty of property outside, should refuse to bring it in.

His Lordship—That is just what I am explaining. The section I referred to will enable you to get hold of that property. Why don't you enforce the Hongkong judgment in the Straits.

Mr. Gedge—We are going to.

His Lordship—I think the matter had better stand over till next week. That will give you time to take advice.

Mr. Barlow—This is all very interesting, but my friend omitted to mention that they have issued a writ in Singapore, and that they are almost certain of getting an interim attachment until judgment. My friend should consent to this order.

His Lordship—The best thing for your friend would be to get all the debtor's properties to pay his debts.

Mr. Barlow—But there is not sufficient. My Lord. His debts are something like \$300,000. My friend's main objection to the application is that the debtor has no property here, but if the receiving order is granted it can be communicated to Singapore. My client's declaration to Singapore shows that his assets in the colony amount to \$30,000.

His Lordship—The affidavit seems to suggest that your client wants his bankruptcy limited to Hongkong.

Mr. Barlow—No, My Lord. Not at all.

His Lordship—I am not at present prepared to make any order. In the first place the debtor must answer affidavits and file full statements, as far as possible, of his affairs. And I think, on the other side, Mr. Gedge should consider the advisability of continuing his opposition to the receiving order in reference to section 118 of the Bankruptcy Act. The case will be adjourned until next week.

YIK WING EX PARTE MA FAI NAM.

Mr. Beavis—I appear for the debtor, Your Lordship, and apply for his release from gaol. As Your Lordship will remember, last Thursday at the debtor's public examination, on the application of a solicitor for one of the plaintiffs, the debtor was arrested under section 24 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance. The Official Receiver represents the debtor's estate, and the plaintiffs received notice of this application through him.

Mr. Steavenson—I appear for twenty-two creditors, and received a letter about 11 o'clock this morning that this application was being made.

His Lordship—For several years the debtor appears to have been receiving property and not paying for same.

Mr. Beavis—But the intent to defraud has to be proved.

His Lordship—Had the debtor been an ordinary trader such might have been the case, but he was purely a commission agent, and the money was not his at all.

Mr. Beavis—I don't know that he acted solely as a commission agent?

His Lordship—Yes, I think so. I cannot release him on his present statement.

Mr. Beavis—I do not ask for his release unconditionally. He will have to give security in the ordinary way.

His Lordship—I suppose the Official Receiver prosecutes.

Mr. Wakeman—The matter has been referred to the Crown Solicitor, and will come on at the examination next Thursday.

Mr. Beavis—I apply for the debtor's release on bail in such conditions that the court may be satisfied that the man will appear at the next public examination.

His Lordship—The matter can stand over till next Thursday, when I will consider it.

Monday, 14th August.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE FUK ON INSURANCE AND GODOWN CO.
v. THE TACK HING FIRM AND ANOTHER.

The plaintiff company claimed from the defendants an amount of \$30,000 due on a promissory note made on the 29th day of September last by the Kwong Yik Wo firm, of which Li Kin Shek is master.

Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. H. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs and informed His Lordship that he understood Mr. Pollock appeared no longer for the defendants. Counsel continued—the plaintiff in this case is suing on a promissory note which was made on the 29th September last by the Kwong Yik Wo firm, of which Li Kin Shek is master. It was made for the sum of \$30,000 and guaranteed by the defendants at the Tack Hing firm, of which Ho Tung Shan is the master. At the same time a security of 20,000 bags of flour was given to the plaintiffs.

Yee San Sam, Secretary to the Fuk On Insurance Company, stated—On the 29th September last I advanced \$30,000 to the Kwong Yik Wo, taking a promissory note as security. The defendant signed as guarantor, attaching the name of his firm. The note became due on the 26th December last and I informed the defendants, by letter. After the due date I saw Ho Tung Shan and he asked for an extension of time. I saw him again to-day, when he asked for a reduction of my claim. The Kwong Yik Wo gave us as security about 20,000 bags of flour after the amount became due. This was sold and realised \$24,678.29 thus reducing our claim to \$5,681.71. No interest has been paid since September, but should have been, at the rate of \$120 per \$10,000.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiffs together with interest and costs.

YUEN HANG KIN AND I. P. MADAR
v. LI SHEK PANG.

The plaintiffs claimed (a)—an injunction to restrain the defendant, his servants, workmen and other agents, from trespassing on the plaintiff's property at No. 86 Swatow Lane, and from digging up, or continuing to dig up the ground of the said premises, or otherwise endeavouring to connect drainage of the defendants premises, Nos. 1 to 17 Amoy Lane, with that of plaintiff's premises, Nos. 2 to 18 Swatow Lane; (b) the sum of \$1,000 as damages for such trespass and digging as aforesaid.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. E.

A. Bonner (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Pollock—As Your Lordship is aware, we are claiming an injunction, or in the alternative, damages. There is not likely to be a repetition of what is complained of, as I understand the work is practically finished.

Mr. Calthrop—The plaintiffs have got an injunction to prevent us finishing it. Some years ago when arrested, these houses were built with this drain draining both premises which now belong to the plaintiffs and defendant. As late as 1902 both these premises belonged to the plaintiff. When these proceedings were commenced we set up as a defence that the drain was an old one which we had been using for years. When it did not satisfy the requirements of the Sanitary Board, both plaintiff and defendant had to put it in order. The plaintiffs say we trespass by going on their land, but they do not say under what circumstances we went on their land. We were compelled by the Sanitary Board to repair the drain, and that is what the plaintiffs are complaining about. The affidavit we put forward shows conclusively that we have used this drain all the time we have been in possession of the premises. I would ask Your Lordship to try the case on affidavits.

Mr. Pollock—My friend's suggestion is a very reasonable one, and it would be a great saving of expense to all parties if Your Lordship would try the case on affidavits.

His Lordship agreed to try the case on the affidavits, and after hearing the arguments of counsel, reserved his judgment.

Thursday, 17th August.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

TAN JOO CHIN EX PARTE THE DEBTOR.

This was an application for the debtor's release from prison.

Mr. Ferrers—I appear for the debtor in this application, and as Your Lordship is aware, a good deal depends, as previously mentioned, as to what is going on in Singapore. We have just received telegraphic communication, in view of which I would ask Your Lordship to allow this matter to stand over for a week.

Mr. Gedge—I would suggest a fortnight. My Lord, by which time the matter will probably be settled.

Mr. Ferrers—My friend does not attach the same weight to the fact that my client has been in gaol for some considerable time.

His Lordship—I don't consider that.

Mr. Gedge—If the matter is adjourned for a fortnight I think it will be settled. This man thinks that by coming before Your Lordship he will get out of gaol. I have a telegram here which states that his brother in Singapore wants to settle for \$65,000, but the debtor telegraphed back "do not settle." The brother replied,—"Do not release the debtor until he settles."

Mr. Ferrers—My information is that his creditors will not accept \$65,000 in full settlement.

His Lordship—I think the matter might be mentioned next week. By reason of what I said the other day I want to draw attention to Article 45 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance and to the case in the Privy Council of Calender, Sykes and Co.

LAI HING EX PARTE MA LUNG KO.

The Official Receiver—I would ask Your Lordship to close this public examination adjourned from a fortnight ago. Your Lordship then suggested that it should be closed.

His Lordship—You cannot get any more information?

Mr. Wakeman—No.

His Lordship—The examination is closed.

YIK WING EX PARTE MA FAI NAM.

Mr. Looker—In this case I appear for some of the creditors, and would like to continue my examination of the debtor with your Lordship's permission. Your Lordship will remember when the examination was previously adjourned that an order was made for the debtor's arrest. I have since been able to examine further into his books and accounts, and would like to continue the examination.

Mr. Beavis—I appear on an application for the debtor's discharge. Your Lordship was going to look into the matter to see exactly what jurisdiction the court had to allow him to be discharged on bail.

His Lordship—I find it is permissible.

Mr. Looker—If Your Lordship would take this matter after the examination it would be more convenient.

His Lordship—Yes, I think that will be better.

Yik Wing was then examined by Mr. Looker. I think you advanced two sums of \$8,500 and \$10,000 to a man named Cheong Chung Lan, didn't you?—Yes.

When?—The first was made on the 12th November of last year, and the second on the 27th January, 1905.

What was the consideration you received for making these loans?—Two promissory notes.

Have you got them?—They are in Court.

Where is Cheong Chung Lan?—He has absconded.

Why did he want the money?—He borrowed it on account of a rice business.

Do you mean to tell me he wanted it on account of rice?—No. He told me he was going to buy a shop.

He borrowed the money to buy a house, didn't he?—Three houses.

Did he buy them? He paid a deposit of \$8,450, but he was unable to get enough money to put through the transaction.

You told the Official Receiver that by reason of that transaction you became bankrupt?—That is so.

When did you know you were bankrupt?—On or about the 6th or 7th June.

I think in the early part of May you went to your solicitors with reference to filing a bankruptcy petition?—I did not.

Did you go to your solicitors in May at all?—Yes, I consulted them about actions brought against me, as I was getting into difficulties.

After you had advanced this man \$8,500 had you any money left?—Yes, I still had some in the bank.

The Fung Kat Bank?—Yes, and the Chung Ying as well.

You had shares in these two institutions?—Yes.

Did you apply to them to pay out your shares in order that you might have ready money?—I borrowed from the Fung Kat Bank.

How much?—I used to borrow from them every now and again, but I do not remember the exact amount.

You had \$10,000 in the Fung Kat?—\$15,000.

And you owe them \$20,000?—Nearly.

How long have you owed them that?—I don't remember exactly.

They brought an action against you in May to recover it?—Yes.

When you commenced business, you carried on in tobacco refuse?—Yes.

And when did you begin to buy other miscellaneous goods?—At the same time as I started the tobacco business.

Do you mean to say that all along you have been buying rice, vegetables, etc.?—I started a lard business as well.

After the Fung Kat sued you, you bought a lot of goods on credit, didn't you?—Yes, and I also guaranteed goods bought by somebody else.

And at that time you had no money to pay for them?—No. But I relied on Cheong Chung Lan.

When did he run away?—On or about 5th or 6th June last.

You knew of his running away?—Yes, I made inquiry from some friends.

Did you not order some goods on the 8th June?—No.

Didn't you order \$30,92 worth of fruit from the Kwong Hing Tai?—I don't remember.

On the 6th June you bought some goods from the Kwong Hing Tai. There is your receipt.—The goods were bought by the Fung Sing Loong, of Macao, and I guaranteed the payment.

You went to the shop and purchased them?—No.

Who did?—A foki of the Fung Sing Loong.

Had you any money to guarantee the payment?—No. My foki chopped the guarantee.

His Lordship—With your authority?

Debtor—No. On the 6th June I found I was unable to pay my debts, so told my foki not to put my chop to guarantees.

His Lordship—Did the foki have a general authority?

Debtor—Yes, in connection with this particular shop.

Did you know the goods had been guaranteed by him?—Two days afterwards he told me.

Did you take any part in the affairs of your shop?—Yes, I managed the business.

Did you know what was being done?—In matters of no importance my foki did not tell me.

But you knew that goods were being bought and sold by your shop?—Yes.

On the 7th June your shop bought from the Mau Fuk Cheong, Chinese tobacco to the value of \$131.85?—I don't know.

During the month of May you received sums of money from Macao for goods you had sent there?—Yes, and I paid the money to different shops.

Not the shops who sold the goods in respect of which the Macao people paid the money?—Some of them.

How did you propose to pay the people whom you did not pay?—I was relying on the money from Cheong Chung Lan.

During the month of May you told us you had no ready money in the shop?—I had \$1,000.

Some of the goods you bought in May and June were bought from shops you had never had dealings with before, were they not?—Yes.

His Lordship next questioned the debtor.

With regard to the business which you did for merchants in Macao, did you charge commission?—No.

What profit did you make?—They were friends, My Lord, and I made nothing out of the transactions.

What profit did you make out of your business?—Sometimes \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year.

Where did the profit come from?—On the sale of tobacco.

Did you use the money Macao merchants sent you?—When I was pressed for payment.

Was the \$10,000 which you lent to Cheong Chung Lan in January part of the Macao money?—No. That was my own.

Was the deposit of \$8,000 which Cheong Chung Lan made on the houses he was going to buy forfeited?—Yes.

Did you take any steps to recover the money from Cheong Chung Lan?—No.

The Official Receiver questions debtor.

Did you buy house No. 378 Queen's Road Central in January of this year for \$22,000?—Yes.

Where did you get the money from?—Part of it was my own, and part I borrowed from different banks here and in Canton.

Did you mortgage this house?—Yes; on the first mortgage I raised \$18,000; on the second, \$6,000; and on the third, \$3,000.

Did you give the banks, from which you say you borrowed the money, any security?—None except promissory notes.

What became of the \$18,000 raised by the first mortgage?—I lent to Cheong Chung Lan the sum of \$10,000, and the balance I paid for goods.

You paid this \$10,000 after he paid the deposit money on the house?—Yes, he told me he was going to put through the transaction, so I lent him \$10,000.

Was a proper agreement of sale drawn up by a solicitor?—Yes.

Mr. Looker asked His Lordship to make an order under section 84 for the prosecution of the debtor.

His Lordship—I will not grant an order to-day as the matter requires some consideration.

Mr. Beavis then applied for the debtor's release, but this His Lordship refused owing to the complications of the case.

RE THE WA LUNG FIRM.

Mr. Barlow—I appear for fifteen creditors, My Lord. The scheme of composition has been signed by the creditors and the first payment made. I now wish to withdraw the petition. Mr. Hett, who appears on the second petition thought that both petitions ought to be held over. The Official Receiver is prepared to withdraw if both petitions are withdrawn.

His Lordship—I would not withdraw one petition unless the other was also withdrawn.

Mr. Barlow—I propose that the matter stand over *sine die*.

His Lordship—I don't like business standing over *sine die*. I should have thought it was a case for withdrawal on the face of it.

The case was adjourned for a fortnight.

WAI YUEN FIRM EX PARTE THE DEBTOR.

Mr. Dixon—This is an application for an order that the sum of \$3,000 deposited in Court as security for the attendance of Kwok Kwai Pak, one of the partners of the above named debtor firm, at all meetings of his creditors, be returned to my client. At the public examination of the two partners their answers were not satisfactory and they were ordered to be detained in custody. Eventually an order was made on the 15th April by the acting Chief Justice for the discharge of the debtors.

His Lordship—What is the state of the bankruptcy now?

Mr. Dixon—An adjudication order was made, and I understand that so far as Kwok Kwai Pak is concerned the Official Receiver has no more questions to ask in the public examination, and that application will be made for it to be closed.

Mr. Wakeman—I have no objection to the return of this security. Kwok Kwai Pak has delivered up all his property, and his conduct has been satisfactory.

His Lordship made an order for the return of the security, and the closing of the examination so far as Kwok Kwai Pak was concerned.

CHAN LEUNG CHUN EX PARTE CHAN KAI CHIU.

This was an application by Mr. Dixon under Section 29 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance for the adjudication order to be annulled on the grounds that all the debts had been paid in full, or secured to the satisfaction of the court. In support of the application affidavits had been filed by four of the creditors, the only ones of which they were aware in the colony. Mr. Barlow appearing for another creditor came forward at the last moment to oppose the application, but Mr. Dixon asked His Lordship to make the order provided the amount owing was paid to Mr. Barlow's client.

His Lordship—You had much better make a further application when this has been done.

Mr. Dixon—The debtor is in custody in Canton, and we want to have him released as soon as possible.

Mr. R. A. Harding—I represent three of the largest creditors. Your Lordship, and in the course of the proceedings the debtor went to Canton. My clients followed, and succeeded in getting him arrested. As the result of that arrest some \$4,000 was deposited in the hands of the British Consul General, and part of our settlement claim is that we are to receive that amount.

Mr. Wakeman—I do not think there will be any difficulty about that, as I have been in communication with the Consul, and think he will hand the money over.

His Lordship granted an order, which is not to be drawn up until Mr. Barlow consents. He further stated that Mr. Harding was entitled to receive such sums up to \$4,000 as might be transmitted to Hongkong by the Consul-General at Canton.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

YUEN HANG KIN AND J. P. MADAR C. LI SHEK PANG.

His Lordship delivered judgment in this action wherein the plaintiffs claimed—(a) an injunction to restrain the defendant, his servants, workmen and other agents, from trespassing on the plaintiffs' property at No. 86 Swatow Lane, and from digging up, or continuing to dig up the ground of the said premises or otherwise endeavouring to connect drainage of the defendant's premises, Nos. 1 to 17 Amoy Lane, with that of plaintiffs' premises, Nos. 2 to 18 Swatow Lane; (b) the sum of \$1,000 as damages for such trespass and digging as aforesaid.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. E. A. Bonner (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) appeared for the defendant.

His Lordship found that defendant was not justified in his trespass, and for such trespass a substantial, but not excessive damage should be awarded. He thought \$250 would meet the justice of the case. As to the injunction claim he did not think, when the case was first mentioned, that it was a case for an injunction, and after hearing the facts that view was confirmed. He thought, therefore, that the plaintiffs must have costs of suit, but that each party should pay its own cost of such proceedings as resulted from the claim of injunction.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

LAU YUNG V. CHUN SHUN KOO.

The plaintiff, a chair coolie [in the employ of Dr. Just], claimed from the defendant the sum of \$100 on account of damages sustained by a window shutter from a shop owned by the defendant falling on him on the 25th May last.

Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Holborow (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the defendant.

Mr. Master—In this action, My Lord, the injury was caused the plaintiff by reason of a shutter falling on him from the house, 14 Queen's Road Central, at the corner of Zetland Street. The plaintiff is one of Dr. Just's chair coolies, and on the 25th May last, after bringing the doctor to his office before ten o'clock in the morning, he sat down at the corner of Zetland Street to wait as usual. While sitting down, a shutter from No. 14 fell on his head and caused such injury that Dr. Just did not expect him to recover, as he eventually did.

Mr. Holborow admitted the damage, but stated that his defence was that the defendant was the owner, not the occupier.

His Honour—Then it is a pure question of law?

Mr. Holborow—It is a question of law, but I also will prove that the coolie was sitting on the coping going round the house, on which he had no right to sit.

His Honour—Then we must go on. Various defences are being set up, so it is not a question of pure law. I expect what it will come to is the question as to whether the landlord is liable for a defect in the house.

After further argument His Honour held that the occupier, not the landlord, was liable, and dismissed the case.

Friday, 18th August.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

WILFUL MURDER.

Cheung Fat was charged with feloniously, wilfully and with malice aforethought, killing and murdering Shek Kau at Shaikiwan on the 20th June.

Sir H. S. Berkeley, K.C., Attorney General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell (of the Crown Solicitor's office) prosecuted, and Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) appeared for the accused.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty to the charge, and the following were empanelled as a jury:—A. Schmidtborn (foreman), W. H. Watson, C. M. Williams, W. J. Batley, A. Weill, A. L. McColl and J. Fisher.

The Attorney-General—May it please Your Lordship and gentlemen of the jury, the prisoner stands charged with the murder of a girl named Shek Kau on the 20th June last. The murder is stated to have taken place somewhere on the waters of the harbour off Saiwan. The facts as they will be exposed to you by witnesses will be shortly as follows:—The dead girl's parents own a house-boat at Shaikiwan; they also had a passenger boat which the dead girl used to ply for hire. The prisoner was well known to the family, and had used the dead girl's boat on two or three occasions. The mother of the girl will tell you that on the 7th January of this year the prisoner came to her boat to see the girl, and asked on that occasion that the girl might come

to live with him as his mistress: that she appears to have refused to do so partly owing to her mother, and on account thereof the prisoner made use of threats against the girl's life, and stated that she should die by his hand. The mother will tell you that this language frightened the girl, and for some time thereafter she was afraid, and refused to ply the passenger boat for hire. Again on the 19th and 21st of the same month it is announced by the mother that the prisoner returned to her boat and again urged his suit. The girl persistently refused him, and he again made use of threats against her. Some six months then passed during which time the family were apparently unmolested by the prisoner; but the mother tells us that on the 19th June last, the deceased having been free from the advances of the prisoner for some time, again commenced to ply the passenger boat for hire. On the 20th June, the day of the night on which we say she was murdered, the girl left the house-boat at nine o'clock and went towards the wharf for the purpose of plying the passenger boat. She was then wearing gold earrings and bangles. A witness will be called who will tell you that shortly after nine o'clock at night she saw three men, one of whom was the prisoner, hire the deceased girl's boat. We have it then that the prisoner and two other men shortly after nine o'clock went away from the wharf at Shau-kiwan in the deceased's boat. The next witness I shall call will be a priest of the name of Lai Yut, who will say that a little after 11 p.m. the same night, two hours afterwards, he saw three men, one of whom was the prisoner, get out of a boat at Saiwan. Saiwan, it will be proved by another witness, is the place where the deceased's boat was found floating empty. The priest subsequently identified the prisoner as being one of the three men whom he had seen leave the boat which turned out to be the deceased's. In the boat were found the earrings which were certified as those the deceased girl was wearing when she left the house-boat that night. There was no other trace of jewellery about. At nine o'clock on the following morning, a foreman of the shipyard at Quarry Bay picked the body of the deceased out of the water near that place. The body then had a tape tied round the mouth, presumably for the purpose of gagging, and all the jewellery the girl had on the night before was missing. As a result of the examination of the doctor to whom the body was submitted, he came to the opinion that death was caused by drowning. From information which the police had respecting the movements of the accused he was arrested, and charged with being concerned in the murder. In answer to the charge the prisoner replied—"It is not I; I was sick. It was those two men." When asked if he knew who those two men were he said—"No. I don't know them." Prisoner accounts for himself by saying that at the time the woman saw him getting into the deceased's boat, he was playing cards at a house.

Evidence was led and the case adjourned.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

Thursday, 17th August.

BEFORE MR. BASIL H. TAYLOR (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

SEAMEN REFUSE SALT JUNK.

Thirty-three of the crew of the s.s. *Courtfield* were charged, at the instance of Capt. Martin of the said vessel, with disobeying his lawful commands on the 16th June last at Nagasaki.

Captain Martin stated—On 15th June I told the steward that as the ship was likely to remain in Nagasaki another month, having been there already one month, he was to give the crew fresh meat one day and salt the next. On the following day the steward offered the men salt beef which they refused to take, and also refused to do any work. The British Consul at Nagasaki advised them to return to their duty, which they did next day.

The spokesman of the defendants stated that when they signed articles the steward promised them fresh meat every day in port. In consequence of being offered salt meat they refused work.

His Worship sentenced defendants to seven days' imprisonment with hard labour, after which they are each to forfeit two days' pay.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton 11th August 1905.

BOGUS "FOREIGN" FIRMS.

His Excellency Viceroy Shum has given instructions to all the local officials to furnish him with reports of all the foreign hongs that are carrying on business in the Walled City and suburbs in their respective districts. The report is to contain names of each firm, their nationality and the number of employees engaged by them. I presume this is done to suppress those Chinese firms that have assumed foreign names.

"JAPANNING" THE ARMY.

Viceroy Shum is, indeed, a progressive man, and his latest idea is to reorganize the army in the Kwangtung province on the Japanese system. Hitherto the Chinese Army has been trained under the German system. I mentioned some time ago, that many Japanese tutors have arrived here, and have now discovered that they are military instructors engaged by the Chinese Government on the Viceroy's recommendation. His Excellency intends to start instructing his body guards first, and the various divisions of the Kwangtung Army will be instructed afterwards.

400,000 TAELS SUBSCRIBED FOR RAILWAY.

Capital to the extent of 400,000 taels has already been subscribed by officials, gentry and merchants of the Sun-Ning district for the purposes of building a railway to join the main trunk of Canton Hankow Railway from that district. As soon as the regulations are drawn up the people will petition to the Viceroy of the Two Kwang requesting him to grant them permission to start the work. I might mention that the majority of the Chinese emigrants of United States are natives of Sun-Ning, and the people of that district are more enlightened than fellow countrymen and they know the advantage of having a railway running through their district.

BIG CLAN FIGHT UP-COUNTRY.

I hear that a very serious clan fight is now going on in the Wai Chow District. It is said that over 200 villages are involved in the fight, and each party in order to prevent their own men from being killed by mistake, carries banners—one party red, and the other black. Cannons and rifles are used by both parties and thousands of men have already been killed and wounded.

TORTURE.

Torture of prisoners during trials of cases has been abolished by the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates some time ago. Lately the Poon Yu Magistrate discovered that his work was in arrears, as he had difficulty in getting witnesses to appear and give evidence. His list of cases has been growing longer every day, he was "compelled" to fall back to the old rut of applying torture to obtain confession from prisoners. The matter of fact is that the people have no confidence in the officials, and if they do appear in court to give evidence they are afraid of being detained and squeezed by the officials. The way to get people to appear in court to give evidence is to give them some sort of guarantee that they are at liberty to leave the court premises as soon as the case is over and that they will not be molested in any way by the officials or their subordinates. I suggest that if His Excellency Viceroy Shum issues a proclamation to that effect the Canton Courts will have no difficulty in getting witnesses to appear.

EMPRESS DOWAGER PROMISES PARLIAMENT ON CONDITIONS.

A telegram received here from Peking states that in an audience granted by the Empress Dowager she made the following statements: "I have heard that if a House of Parliament were to be established in my country it will make the Ching dynasty very firm and everlasting and that all revolutionary deliberation will cease and my country will enjoy peace. I have sent the following officials viz:—Tai Hing Chi, Tsoi Chak, Tun Fong and Yun Sai Kai's son to go abroad to study the parliamentary methods of different nations and, on their return, should they report favourably on the subject, then I will grant the establishment of parliament to my subjects."

Canton 14th August.

CHINESE TRICKERY AND THE WAY IT IS PUNISHED.

Last week Kwan Man Yum, a military student of the Cheong Pin Hok Tong (college for training officers at Canton), who has been in the habit of inventing stories to obtain leave of absence from the college, was most severely and cruelly punished by His Excellency Viceroy Shum. It appears that on Wednesday last Kwan again got tired of schooling, and in order to obtain leave he concocted a story by telling the Professor that his grandmother was seriously ill, and requested leave of absence for five days to go home and nurse his poor grandmother. Leave was granted to him, and in the afternoon he was enjoying himself most gloriously with "Sing Song" girls in a flower boat. Somebody conveyed this piece of news to the professor of the college who on the following day sent for Kwan and abridged his leave. The professor was puzzled because he could not think of any punishment to impose on Kwan which would deter the incorrigible student from repeating his tricks, so he reported the matter to Viceroy Shum. His Excellency was very angry and directed the professor to hand Kwan over to the Poon Yu Magistrate to wait his orders. On the 10th instant the Viceroy ordered the Magistrate to cut Kwan's left ear, and deported him to his native village (Shim Tak) where he is to be under vigilant surveillance of the local officials. An intimate friend of the Viceroy at a levee yesterday, broached this subject and the Viceroy remarked that it was the most lenient punishment he could impose on Kwan for an offence of this kind.

A TLS. 3,000,000 LOAN.

Owing to difficulties experienced by the Provincial Treasury in meeting the enormous public expenditure I hear that Viceroy Shum has been trying to obtain a loan of three million taels. His Excellency has approached a European Bank here which was quite willing to advance the amount at a very cheap rate of interest, but demanded certain large railway concessions in the Kwangtung Province to which the Viceroy would not agree, and the negotiations eventually fell through.

Yesterday I was informed that the Viceroy is negotiating for the loan through a certain very wealthy Chinese gentleman of Hongkong. The interest offered is 12 per cent. per annum, and the loan is to be repaid in ten annual instalments of 300,000 taels each.

He is willing to float the loan provided the Viceroy obtains consent from the Wai-wu-pu.

MORE EARTHQUAKES.

Another earthquake took place here at 8.30 on Saturday night. The shock lasted about two seconds and was felt by most of the residents in Shameen. Furniture and articles in the houses were seen to move, but fortunately no accident resulted.

Canton, 14th August.

SERIOUS FIRES.

About 7 a.m. on the 12th inst. a serious fire broke out in Yew Wah Sam Yeuk (West End). It originated from Tso's residence, No. 13 Yew Wah Street, and gradually spread round the neighbourhood. The brigades worked up to noon. Altogether 38 houses were destroyed by fire. The origin of the fire is unknown. At 10 p.m. last night another fire broke out at Ng Sin Moon. The Fook Hing Loi tea shop and four other shops were burnt down. Several men in the street were seriously wounded by earthenware water jars thrown from roofs of neighbouring houses to put out the fire.

THIEF ARRESTED.

Yuan Kwai, a house coolie employed by Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. was arrested for stealing a trunk and other articles belonging to the manager of the firm. He was sent to the Nam Hoi. When the trial took place (12th instant) he denied having stolen the things and refused to sign a confession.

IMPERSONATING VICEROY'S DEPUTIES.

Several notorious sharpers, now at large, are representing themselves as deputies of the Viceroy and have been successful in perpetrating large swindles. It has now come to the knowledge of Viceroy Shum who has given orders to have them promptly arrested. His Excellency the Viceroy has also issued a

proclamation warning the people not to be deceived by them.

REDUCTION OF POSTAL FEES.

Commencing from the 1st instant postal rates for letters sent from Canton to the following places and vice versa have been reduced to five cash per 3½ mace in weight, viz.:—Fong Cheun, Honam, Fati, Fat Shan, Wongpo, Chun Chum, Tailong, Kamchuk, Kankong, Loongkong, Loong Shan, Kongmoon and Shanwoi.

SUPERVISION OF STEAMERS AND STEAM LAUNCHES.

The Waiwupu discovered that owners of steamships have frequently overloaded their vessels with cargo and carried passengers in excess of their capacity, thus jeopardizing human life and property. I hear that new regulations have been made to limit the number of passengers and the quantity of cargo to be carried by vessels according to their carrying capacity, &c. A copy of these new regulations has been received by the Viceroy, who will shortly enforce the rules.

COUNTERFEITING TRADE MARKS.

In consequence of the Yee Wo Company, a Chinese firm up-country, having counterfeited the trade mark of a match box label, the Japanese Consul-General at Hongkong has communicated this matter to the Viceroy. His Excellency has given orders to the Nam Hoi to have the owners of the Yee Wo Company arrested and punished. I hear that counterfeits of trade mark labels of all descriptions are common up country and European firms do not seem to take any trouble to put a stop to such dishonest practices.

Canton, 15th August.

THE LATE TIT SAI'S AFFAIRS.

In my correspondence of the 7th instant, in an article headed "A Dead Defaulter," which appeared in your issue of the 9th instant, I mentioned that the late Chau Sai's family is "under vigilant surveillance" practically under arrest. I have since made further inquiries in this matter and now take the opportunity to give the exact characters which appeared in one of the local papers here (i.e., **看管家屬**), which I translated "under, vigilant surveillance" or practically under arrest. The literal translation of those characters is "watch and control family." I am quite prepared to withdraw my version of the translation of the characters if anybody objects to it, as I do not profess to be an expert translator. The deficit discovered was originally 900,000 taels, but the deceased paid up 600,000 taels shortly before he died. Viceroy Shum, I believe, gave orders to the officer in charge of the Native Customs to hold Tit Sai's family responsible for the balance, 300,000 taels.

** This reference by our correspondent is in answer to a suggestion that the news of the "surveillance" of the deceased official's family was not true.

INSTALLATION OF MARCONI'S TELEGRAPHY.

The Chinese military authorities have entered into a contract with a certain German firm for the installation of Marconi's improved method of wireless telegraphy between this City and Samshui. Several Germans have already arrived here and they will probably start the installation work in a few days. It is said that the apparatus will not be able to transmit messages more than 75 miles distant. The apparatus for receiving messages in Canton will be installed on the Customs signal tower at Ho Nam. It appears that the same firm has supplied several installations to military stations up north which have turned out to be very satisfactory.

AMERICAN BOYCOTT.

I hear that the American Consul-General here has received official instructions from his minister to notify the Viceroy that his Government will hold the Chinese Government responsible for all losses suffered by the American merchants through the hostile movements and measures taken by the Chinese to boycott American merchandise. It is said that the Standard Oil Company here have notified their Consul General that their losses for last week alone amounted to over \$25,000, and this was

all on account of intimidation of dealers by the boycott committee.

PROVISIONS REFUSED.

The American gunboat *Callao* arrived here on the 13th instant and, from inquiries made, I hear that when she was in Wuchow all Chinese dealers refused to supply provisions to her, and they had to obtain necessities in an indirect way. This tends to prove that the boycott is getting worse and spreading more rapidly every day.

CANTON, 16th August.

CANTON WATER WORKS.

Ng Po Kwong, a merchant here, has petitioned Viceroy Shum for a concession to build the water works of Canton City and to supply water to the citizens of Ho Pak and Ho Nam. It was stated in the petition that he is prepared to float a company with a capital of \$5,000,000. He offers an annual royalty of \$15,000 to the Government if the concession is granted to him.

His Excellency has directed the Sin Hau Kok to communicate the contents of Ng's petition to the Prefect, the Nam Hoi and the Poon Yu magistrates, so that they may jointly consider the various aspects of the affair and report as to whether it would hamper or inconvenience the place if the concession were to be granted to merchants. Some think this gigantic project should be taken up by the Government, as there may be considerable trouble and obstacles which may embroil the general public, and could only be overcome by the Government being responsible. I remember some years ago one of the leading British firms in Hongkong applied to Viceroy To Mo for the same concession, but the matter was dropped because the Chinese Government refused to add a clause in the agreement to assist the company in collecting debts from its consumers.

TERRIBLE RESULT OF A BAD SCHEME.

So Wai Ting, owner of an orchard in Sze Keu village, near Canton, who discovered that his fellow villagers had been in the habit of stealing fruit from his trees, made up his mind to put a stop to the pilfering and to punish the thieves most severely if they were to repeat their dishonest practices. In order to do so he injected a solution of arsenic into some of the ripe fruits in his orchard, so that people who stole and ate them might be poisoned.

A few days ago while his eldest son was returning to the village from a neighbouring fair, he felt very thirsty as he was walking through his father's orchard. He plucked several "wongpa" from a tree near him and ate them. When he got home he felt a terrible cramp in the stomach. His father asked him what was the matter with him. He replied he had eaten several "wongpa" in the orchard, which he believed had caused the stomachache. Old So knew what it was at once and immediately sent for a doctor to administer some antidote to his unfortunate son, but the medicine did not do any good and the poor fellow died the same evening.

HONGKONG DEBTOR ARRESTED.

Lau Hing Suen, a native of the Poon Yu District who has been carrying on an extensive banking business in Hongkong, under the style of "Wai Wo" has been arrested and imprisoned in the Nam Hoi. It seems that he failed in business last year. His debts amounted to something like \$400,000. Since Lau's imprisonment the Nam Hoi Magistrate has received a despatch from the Viceroy which states that the prisoner owes a debt of over \$100,000 to the International Banking Corporation and requests the Nam Hoi to seize all Lau's property in the country and dispose of same to pay up the Bank's claim.

TRANSLATION FROM THE "LING HOI."

Last month H.B.M. Consul General here wrote to the Nam Hoi stating that Lau Hok Shun had pledged certain title deeds of his property with the Wang Fung Company. Lau Wai Cheun took the same title deeds from the Wang Fung Company and hypothecated them with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to secure the payment of certain drafts. The H. K. & S. Banking Corporation has a lien on the property, and requested the Nam Hoi to issue a proclamation to the above effect.

I hear that a few days ago Lau Hok Shun's attorney here sent a petition to the Nam Hoi in which it states:—That Lau Hok Shun

had handed the title deeds of his property to the Wang Fung Company to keep for safe custody, and that Lau Wai Cheun had hypothecated the title deeds to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation of his own accord and without first having obtained Lau Hok Shun's permission. The Nam Hoi's decree says that as the contents of Lau Hok Shun's petition are quite inconsistent with what is said in H.B.M. Consul-General's letter, he could not decide the matter until all the parties, viz., Lau Wai Cheun, Wai Long Shan, and Lau Hok Shun, appeared before him to give evidence and produce all the documents that were signed and passed before them.

TAX TO REPLACE FANTAN REVENUE.

I hear that Viceroy Shum intends to impose duties on all kinds of merchandise. The name of this new tax is (**印花稅**) Yan Fa duty or "flower seal duty." It is said that many officials have frequently recommended the enforcement of the Yan Fa tax, but an Imperial Edict was issued last year ordering the suppression of all oppressive revenues, in consequence of which order the subject of the "Yan Fa" tax had to be dropped. Lately an Expectant Prefect here has compiled a set of regulations and conditions of the "flower seal tax" which is said to have been very artfully drawn up. As His Excellency the Viceroy is anxious to suppress all gambling in the Kwangtung Province, a copy of the regulations has been sent to him for his approval, and there can be no doubt that he will take this opportunity to enforce the new tax as a substitute for gambling revenues. I was informed that yesterday Viceroy Shum gave orders to the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates to take immediate steps to investigate and study the pros and cons of the regulations and to report their opinions on the matter, so that he may be able to enforce them at an early date.

I do not know whether this new tax will affect foreign goods or not, but if it does, I am afraid the Viceroy will have a great deal of up-hill work to go through before he can successfully enforce it.

IMPORTANT OFFICIAL POSITION ABOLISHED.

On the 16th instant, the Provincial Treasurer of Kwangtung Province forwarded a despatch to the Commissioners of the Grain Tax, the contents of which were roughly as follows:—

"I have received a despatch from the Board of Civil Office in Peking, requesting me to inform you that the Government has abolished the Grain Tax Office of the Kwangtung Province, and directing me to take over and perform the duties of collecting the grain tax of the province."

REMOVAL OF YAMEN PAPERS.

Yesterday all official documents and papers relating to cases, &c., of the Governor's Yamen were removed to the Viceroy's Yamen. In future all public functions and transactions which hitherto have been performed by the Governor will be attended to by the Viceroy.

HONAM THEATRE.

Perhaps you are not aware that there is only one theatre building in the whole great City of Canton. Barring "Sing Song" houses and flower-boats, there are no other amusements for the millions of people here but the Theatre. Unfortunately, about two years ago Ng Lan Fong, one of the gentry of Honam, petitioned the Viceroy to suppress the evening performances. The reasons stated in the petition were that evening performances were dangerous to the neighbourhood; that the theatre being open throughout the night for admission, robbers and thieves would seize the advantage and make use of the place; and that also many disputes and quarrels were settled in the theatre at night. Whereupon Viceroy Shum ordered the prohibition of evening performances. The day performances did not bring in sufficient to meet the expenses for running the theatre, and eventually the owner closed the place altogether. He afterwards made repeated attempts to have the prohibition removed but was unsuccessful. Tong Sui Yun has lately floated a concern called the Ming Shing Company to work the theatre. He has petitioned the Sin Hau Kok for permission to hold performances both day and night, and has offered the Government a very tempting sum as annual royalty. It is said that the matter was referred

to the Poon Yü Magistrate, who has since made a very favourable report, and there is every likelihood that the theatre will be in full swing again in a few days.

ANOTHER SERIOUS REBELLION.

A serious rebellion broke out on the 9th instant in the Lo Loong Village, near the Loong Cheun City, in Wai Chan District. The rebels after plundering and killing all the civil and military officers in the village, made preparations to attack the Loong Cheun City. The rebels have established their headquarters at Lo Loong Village. On the 10th instant the Loong Cheun Magistrate gave orders to close the gates of the City and posted braves on the city wall to repel the assault. He also sent despatches and letters to the Wai Chan Prefect requesting help but they were intercepted and robbed by the rebels.

The people in the neighbouring city of Ho Yuen got wind of the rebellion and, fearing that the rebels might also attack the city, immediately wired (14th instant) to some of their countrymen who are merchants in Canton to at once report the matter to Viceroy Shum and request him to send soldiers to suppress the rebellion. On the 15th instant the Viceroy sent Colonel Li Moonf Suit with two divisions of infantry.

PAKHOI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

August 9th.

DEARTH OF RICE.

Following two consecutive years of abundance of this important staple, there is a very bad prospect for the second crop of the present year throughout the Prefecture of Linchow, partly due to the appearance of myriads of a black hairless grub, which had almost destroyed the young plants. Taking advantage of this unfortunate circumstance the wealthy proprietors of granaries are making a "corner." The merchants on the other hand, who are always equal to the occasion, have been importing rice from Haiphong by every opportunity, and this has been the means of preventing further rise in the price of the staple, and I have no doubt that Hongkong will soon be looked upon as another source of supply.

THE FRENCH SCHOOL.

Since the departure of Professor Marc I Bondet, who left for France on leave in the beginning of June last, the school has been left without a teacher, with only the direction of a monitor or one of the most advanced pupils with the supervision of the French Consul, Monsieur G. Lecomte. The new professor, Monsieur Chalmel, having now arrived the school is again in proper trim with a daily attendance of between forty and fifty boys.

GROUNDNUTS.

The harvest of this oily nut has been plentiful here and in the surrounding districts this season, so much so that its export, both in the crude state and after being converted into oil, to Hongkong, Haiphong and other adjacent places, has been noticed with pleasant surprise. Until as recently as the 6th ultimo, Sesamum Seed, which is a bad substitute for the Groundnut oil, has been imported from Hongkong, but since the nuts were gathered and crushed, the reverse has been the case. Six years ago the exportation of the oil was stopped, owing to the failure of the crop, and only last year the natives began to experiment with the seeds obtained from California and Swatow, with such admirable results, that a new impetus was given this year. Whether in the future such satisfactory results will be obtained, I am not prepared to foretell, but the planters are confident that such will be the case. The work of crushing the nuts to obtain the oil (a most primitive and tedious process) has been going on for weeks, working overtime. What with the gathering of the nuts, drying, unhusking and crushing, there ought to be employment for all the idlers, who should not now be able to advance the plea of want of work, when they go abegging and robbing. Unfortunately, these parasites seem to be more active in good times. The planters are better worth robbing.

ZONE TIME.

At last it has been decided to adopt the Zone time here as elsewhere. On the 4th instant a

circular was sent round by the Acting Harbour Master, Mr. F. Allshorn, stating that "zone time having been adopted for public and private use at other treaty ports, zone time at Pakhoi would, in the future, be circulated for the information of the community. Pakhoi zone time is slower than mean time by 16 minutes."

SANITATION.

Through the initiative of the Delegate of Foreign Affairs, the Expectant Taotai Liang, the principal streets are being daily cleaned. The expense is borne by public subscription, the promoter being one of those who head the list. Mr. Liang, who is a man of sound English education, with a good idea of Western ideas, has in many instances shown himself to be a man worthy of his high position and of more intelligence than many of his rank. While the office he is now filling had been merely a sinecure under the direction of several of his predecessors, run by their secretaries and underlings, since his advent here, in January last, things have taken a better turn. He does not allow grass to grow under his feet by trusting to his secretary what requires his personal attention. While he is an undoubted patriot, he is not in the least anti-foreign, as might be expected from a man who has received his education in Hongkong (sic). Men of his calibre should occupy the principal positions in the Empire.

THE LOST JUNK.

Particulars of this calamity have been received. The loss sustained by the eight Piece-Goods shops here amounted to over Tls. 101,000; Kwong Kie heading the list with Tls. 26,000. The rest of the loss, also some Tls. 100,000, falls on Hamchow. How many of the firms affected will find difficulty in making the two ends meet at the end of the year, the great settling day of China!

THE R. C. MISSION.

Since February last the Roman Catholic Mission (French) has been reinforced by three Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. These ladies are learning the native language in order to be more useful to the natives. I need not enlarge on the merits of those virtuous ladies as nurses to the sick. They are well known, everywhere. Since they came, they have already shown their readiness to attend at the bed-side of the sick with the same self-denial characteristic of the members of their order. One of the ladies attends regularly at the French Hospital to assist the doctor in surgical operations and to dress the wounds of the patients. Soon after their arrival here, a few little houses were built on the Mission property to receive the sick and uncared-for among those of the Roman faith. To whom belongs the credit of recommending these ladies here, I have little or no concern, but I am really convinced that missionary labour in China to be successful, if at all, must be carried on together with the art of healing the sick, and housing the homeless. It is next to useless to force the Gospel down a Chinaman's throat unless he is first convinced of the genuine intention of the foreigners in attending to his corporal need, prech what you may.

EARTHQUAKES AT MACAO.

DISTURBANCE EXTENDED TO HONGKONG.
14th August.

An earthquake, as Mr. Dyer Ball in his *Things Chinese* remarks, is not a phenomenon often experienced by the foreign resident in China. Slight shocks, however, have at times been felt at Hongkong as well as in the Treaty ports, but they come at such long intervals and are of so mild a character that they excite more wonder than alarm. The series of earth-tremors which the inhabitants of Macao have lately been experiencing are certainly more alarming than any previous experiences of the kind recorded in this part of China.

On Friday night at nine o'clock a very severe shock was experienced at Macao causing large numbers of the inhabitants to leave their houses, and as this first shock was followed throughout the night by a series of minor oscillations, crowds flocked to the parks and other open ground in the purlieus of the city, and spent part of the night in the open air. Altogether sixteen shocks were experienced

during the night. Many residents of Macao have become so alarmed by the recent frequency of these earth-tremors that they have come over to Hongkong, and it is said half the population would have come here on Friday had there been steamers to take them.

But Hongkong is beginning to feel the earth tremors too. Many residents, especially on the Peak, noticed a slight shock about nine o'clock on Friday night, and a much sharper one was experienced at 8.25 p.m. on Saturday. That of Friday night was scarcely perceptible but there was no mistaking the shock on Saturday night, an undulating lateral motion of the earth being most unpleasantly perceptible and causing momentary alarm to a good many people. Damage to house property, it might be supposed would more likely be caused by Saturday's shock than by that on Friday, yet the only damage we have heard of is the fall of the roof of a verandah at the back of one of the houses in Belilios Terrace on Friday night, the crash giving residents in the neighbouring houses a great fright. The movement of Friday night's earthquake shock appeared to be vertical, while that of Saturday was lateral. It is ten years since a shock of earthquake so noticeable as that on Saturday night was felt in Hongkong. It was then recorded that people in the upper stories of the Hongkong Hotel felt dizzy and concluded that the building would fall, and that many Chinese were much alarmed.

It will be interesting to learn what effects are noticeable at the hot springs of Yung Mak, about twenty miles north-west of Macao. The temperature of the water coming from these springs is usually about 170 degrees. They are situated in a valley surrounded by high mountains, and from the position of the springs at the centre of the circle of mountains it is generally considered that the site is that of an extinct volcano. It is rather curious however to note that though Hongkong is mentioned several times in the list of Mr. Dyer Ball's, as having experienced earthquake shocks, Macao is not mentioned once.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Macao, 13th August.

THE EARTHQUAKES.

Yesterday (Saturday) there were several severe earthquake shocks here, which frightened us all very much. There was a very violent shock at half past eight, one which cracked the walls of the Leal Senado. The gaol was totally ruined, necessitating the removal of the prisoners at eleven o'clock at night to the police barracks. The fantan house in Rua do Jago was cracked from top to bottom, while another in Rua da Cadeia, just in front of the gaol, also suffered. Many people were to be seen lying down in terror on the mountain paths. Here the shocks were not felt so much. It seems that the full force of the earthquake was felt in the Largo do Senado, and in the Chinese quarter, which is commonly known as the Bazaar. About two thousand people sought refuge at the Avenida, where they spent a miserable night. After the first shock at half past eight there were a dozen more. Everything was quiet after two o'clock in the morning.

Two walls of the Monte Forte were very much shaken. The quarters of the Commandant were cracked from top to bottom. The gate sentry houses of the Guia collapsed, and the chapel threatens ruin. Several other houses, also, are badly cracked.

No casualty or loss of life has been as yet recorded; terror still prevails, however. There is a tremendous exodus from Macao to Hongkong, while other people are talking of living in mat-heds on the hills.

The mean temperature for July was 82.3; the maximum was 87.8 and the minimum 78.1. There were 243.5 hours of sunshine, and only about nine inches of rain. Apparently it wasn't (as some supposed) the hottest July in twenty years.

PRINCE AND PRINCESS ARISUGAWA AT HONGKONG.

A BRILLIANT RECEPTION.

Others may have been on a larger scale, but none was more enthusiastic than the reception accorded by Hongkong, official and unofficial, to the Japanese Prince and Princess on their arrival in port on Aug. 16th by the s.s. *Preussen*. It was evident that important arrivals were expected by the large number of people who blocked the road near Blake Pier just after noon, all waiting to catch a glimpse of the Japanese royalties. Captain Arbuthnot Leslie, H.E. the Governor's A.D.C. and Mr. Noma, Japanese Consul, went off to the *Preussen* and conducted the Prince and his suite ashore in the Governor's launch. As they left the ship a royal salute of 21 guns was fired from H.M.S. *Tamar*. On the pier Mr. Noma introduced the Prince and Princess to Col. Darling, G.O.C., and other officers, and to Sir H. S. Berkeley, Sir C. P. Chater, Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, Dr. Clark, Mr. W. Chatham and Mr. L. A. M. Johnstone.

A guard of honour composed of about 200 men of the Royal West Kents, commanded by Captain T. Bloch, was drawn up along the Praya facing the pier, and as the Prince, on whose chest shone the Imperial Star of the first order of the Rising Sun, accompanied by the Princess, walked along the pier the R.W.K. Band struck up the "Kimegaya," Japanese national anthem. His Highness then inspected the guard, before which flew the regimental colours; and then, accompanied by his suite and the gentlemen he had met, proceeded to Government House where he dined with H.E. the Governor, returning on board in the afternoon.

Owing to the early departure of the mail steamer, the Royal visitors had but a short stay here, and a dinner and soiree which Mr. Noma, Japanese Consul, had arranged in their honour was of necessity abandoned. The *Daily Press* on the 17th said:—

"Whom the King delights to honour." We need make no apology for enlarging upon the visit, brief as it was, which their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Arisugawa yesterday paid to this Colony. As Hongkong is not the most inconspicuous corner of a great empire, it need have no hesitation in offering its "widow's mite" of the great national welcome that Britain has been extending so enthusiastically to the relatives and representatives of the Japanese Emperor. Britain is tied to its victorious ally by affection as well as by treaty, and it has fallen to Sir Matthew Nathan and his staff, as governing a portion of British soil most contiguous to Japan, to speed the parting guest with renewed courtesies. It has helped, this tour of Prince Arisugawa, to dissipate some diligently circulated suggestions that the British have not been enjoying the real respect of their allies, that they are blamed for not "playing the game" as an ally should, and that it is pure self interest that has made the renewal and strengthening of the alliance possible. These calumnies could never have made much headway, perhaps, but it is pleasant to find our visitor making repeated reference to the good impressions that he had personally received from the manner of his reception, and assurances that these impressions and gratified feelings would certainly be shared by his illustrious relative at Tokyo. We can with some confidence reply that so far as this colony and its British subjects are concerned, the sentiments of the mother country are shared in full. We are nearer to his own beautiful country, and perhaps enjoy a fuller knowledge of his nationals, of their nature, and of their national spirit, progressive aims, and remarkably liberal ideas. Prince Arisugawa spoke in London of Japan's "full sympathy and best wishes for the people of the whole British Empire," and there can be no doubt that from such a source, that was as sincere as it was authoritative. His Imperial Highness spent some time in England as a student, and became familiar with the best type of English thought. As a young officer in the British navy, he was immensely popular; and he was the highly approved representative of Japan at the Diamond Jubilee of Her Late Majesty, Queen Victoria.

Yesterday was not the first time that he had gazed upon the terraced vista of Hongkong, and judging by the warmth of his welcome, unless he be already surfeited with honours and hearty welcomes, he will not regret having entered the beautiful harbour that used to be, and we hope soon will be again brightened by the flag of the Rising Sun. His welcome would have been more publicly expressed had there been less uncertainty about the arrival, and if formal arrangements had been made. The visit was, however, to be brief, and informal; and the turnout of private citizens, being spontaneous and uninvited, will doubtless atone for the absence of the cheering crowds to which Their Highnesses have been accustomed. They had spoken of the kindness of "the King in the Palace" and the "man in the street." Here the man of the street was unprepared, and more a man at the tiffin table; but His Excellency the Governor would speak for him, if the salvoes of artillery did not. We are sorry that owing to their almost immediate departure, further courtesies which were intended had to be tendered more in the spirit than in deed.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary half yearly meeting of shareholders in this company was held at the offices of the company, Bank Buildings, on the 15th Aug. There were present:—Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson (Chairman), Messrs. N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, E. Fuhrmann, H. Schubart, F. Salinger and Hon. Mr. R. Shewan (Directors), T. Arnold (Secretary) and Messrs. L. S. Lewis, F. E. Ellis, J. Arnold, W. E. Clarke, G. T. Veitch, P. Tester, G. H. May, H. A. Siebs, W. G. Winterburn, H. Oldorp, G. de Champeau, L. Berindoague and Dr. J. Noble.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, I propose that, as usual, the report and accounts be taken as read, and as they in a measure speak for themselves I shall not detain you with many remarks. The result of the six months' working is certainly a poor one, but, as was stated at our last meeting, profitable working cannot be looked for under the prevailing conditions of the trade. The item of repairs is somewhat heavy; this, however, was to a great extent met by the amount brought forward from the previous half-year, so that we are able to maintain the dividend of 81 per share without drawing upon the Equalization Fund. The sum left to be carried forward is small, but it is not anticipated that the expenditure for repairs will be heavy during the current six months, most of our steamers falling due to be docked in the early part of the year. Turning to the balance sheet, I may explain, with reference to the item "Shares in Public Companies," that during the half-year certain new issues were taken up, and although it was deemed prudent when closing the accounts, to adjust values by the transfer of \$13,068, from the Investment Fluctuation Account, that amount, I am pleased to say has since been more than recovered by the recent rise in market rates. The properties mortgaged to the company have just been revalued by Messrs. Palmer & Turner, and the valuations all show very satisfactory margins upon the sums advanced. I do not think there is anything more which calls for explanation, so, unless there are any questions to be answered, I will propose the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved accordingly.

Mr. LEWIS seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. VEITCH proposed and Mr. TESTER seconded, that the appointment of the Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson as a director be confirmed, also that Messrs. Siebs and Haupt be re-elected members of the board.

The proposition was agreed to.

Mr. ELLIS moved that Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts be reappointed auditors.

Mr. SCHUBART seconded the motion. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

TEBRAU PLANTING CO., LD.

VOLUNTARILY WOUND UP.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in this company was held at the registered office of the company, Alexandra Buildings, on the 18th August, for the purpose of considering the winding up of the company. There were present: Messrs. J. A. Jupp (chairman), J. L. Cotter (secretary), G. Murray Bain, A. P. Nobbs, Lau Chu Pak and J. M. Wong.

The notice convening the meeting having been read by the secretary, the chairman said—

GENTLEMEN—You will remember that at the last general meeting of the company the Chairman informed you that they were then endeavouring to arrange a sale of the company's property at a price which would give shareholders a return of about 49 per cent on their capital. These negotiations fell through; but through our manager, Mr. Larke, we subsequently got into touch with other likely purchasers, and in November last he wired us for the refusal of our property till the middle of December, at \$50,000 in cash, and strongly advised us to accept. On receipt of this telegram we called you together privately, and at a meeting held in this office in November it was decided to give the refusal asked for. On December 13th we received a wire from Mr. Larke to the effect that the property was sold to the East Asiatic Co.—a Danish concern—and the bargain money was then paid. There has been some delay in completing the purchase as the purchasers not being British subjects the Johore Government, within whose territories the property lies, refused to register the transfer; but this difficulty has now been got over by the purchasers registering a company in Singapore to take over the property. The balance of the money has now been paid, and in a short time after the confirmation of the winding up resolution, which has just been read to you, we hope to be able to distribute same to the shareholders. You will notice that in the resolution there is no mention of remuneration to the liquidators. As you are doubtless aware the company dates back to 1897, i.e. 8 years. It is provided in the articles of association that the general managers' fees shall be \$600 a year, equal to \$4.80 for the full period; but, as you know, of this only the fees for the first year, i.e. \$600, have been drawn. Under the circumstances, therefore, we propose to charge the sum of \$2,000 as liquidation fee and trust this will meet with your approval. The accounts lying on the table before you show the position of affairs on December 31st which you will observe is not materially altered from what it was on April 30th, 1904. We anticipated that the amount of capital returnable on each share will be between \$2.20 and \$2.25.

If any shareholder has any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved that the company be wound up voluntarily and that the general managers be and they are hereby appointed liquidators for the purpose of such winding up.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That, gentlemen, concludes the business of this meeting. Notice will be given of the confirmatory meeting by advertisement as soon as possible. Thank you for your attendance.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The eightieth ordinary half-yearly meeting of this Corporation was held at the City Hall on the 19th August. There were present Messrs. H. W. Slade (Chairman), A. Haupt, E. Goetz, G. H. Medhurst, A. J. Raymond, E. Shellim, F. Salinger, H. Schubart, N. A. Siebs, Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, Hon. Mr. R. Shewan (Directors), Mr. J. R. M. Smith (Chief Manager), Hon. Mr. G. Stewart, Messrs. H. M. H. Nemazee, J. C. Peter, A. V. Apcar, N. J. Stabb, O. Von der Heyde, R. R. Hynd, C. J. Gonsalves, J. A. Chinoy, H. N. Mody, E. Georg, G. Murray Bain, D. D. Gazder, J. Orange, J. A. Jupp, W. H. Potts, W. H. Gaskell, A. G. Wood, W. A. C. Cruickshank, F. D. Goddard, W. H. Purcell, W. H. Wickham, Dr. Noble, P. C. Potts.

W. J. Saunders, J. Barton, J. R. Michael, S. J. Michael, G. L. Tomlin, E. S. Kadoorie, C. W. May, Wong Leung Him, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shiu and Ho Kom Tong.

The Chief Manager read the notice convening the meeting and the CHAIRMAN read the report, after which he said—Gentlemen—, It gives your directors great pleasure to come before you with another good result of six months working of the Bank. I feel sure that the report which I have just read will be considered satisfactory, and I trust the distribution of profits which we recommend will also receive your approval. From the statement of accounts which has been in your hands for some time, you will have seen that, in addition to placing \$5 lacs to the silver reserve, raising that fund to \$8,500,000 and carrying forward some \$2 lacs in excess of last half year, we propose, on this occasion, to pay a dividend of £1.15s. per share, being an increase of 5s. on the dividend which you have regularly received for the past six and a half years. At first sight 5s. per share does not seem a large increase, but it amounts to £40,000 a year, and in percentage you will find that at present exchange it represents fully 4 per cent. p.a. on the capital, which I think you will admit is a very substantial addition to our dividend. Your directors fully recognise, as I am sure you must all do, the inadvisability of raising the dividend unless there are reasonable grounds for feeling confident of being able to maintain it. The proposal has, therefore, not been made without due consideration and only after careful observation of the steadily increasing earning power exhibited by the various branches of the Bank, not only in the Far East, but also in other parts of the world where we are established. But though we feel justified in thinking that the time has come for shareholders to receive a higher dividend we are also alive to the necessity of ensuring that the Bank shall be prepared to take advantage of the increased opportunities certain to accompany the great impetus to enterprise in China which is expected to follow the close of the war, and we, therefore, fully realize the prudence of continuing to add to our reserves. This is the surest way of maintaining the strong position in which the Bank at present stands, and your directors have no intention of departing from the general line of policy in the respect which has been pursued with so much success in the past, and of which we are to-day reaping the benefit. Turning now to the balance sheet and comparing it with that of 31st December last, you will notice that the total figures are considerably higher. This is to a large extent accounted for by the increase of some two and a half millions sterling in the gold current accounts due chiefly to the temporary deposit of proceeds of loans recently floated. There is no appreciable change in gold fixed deposits; silver current accounts show an increase of \$5,300,000 and silver deposits are also a little higher. Bills payable have increased by \$5,000,000. There is only a slight difference in our note circulation, but compared with a year ago it has gone up about \$11 lacs. On the other side of the account coin lodged with the Government against the excess note issue remains unchanged at \$8,500,000, but cash and bullion in hand, and in transit, amount to \$49,336,683.16 against \$43,204,418.57. Our holdings of Indian Government Rupee Paper and Consols, Colonial and other securities have both been slightly increased; Bills discounted, Loans and Credits stand at \$104,214,416.69 against \$85,601,394.93 in December, and Bills Receivable are nearly twelve million dollars more than last half year. Far Eastern commerce has pursued a comparatively even course throughout the past half year considering the importance of the political events which have marked the period. The effect of the war upon trade has not changed in any striking manner since we last met. Things seem to have adjusted themselves fairly comfortably to the temporary conditions. We have certainly witnessed a marked depression of trade and contraction of native credit in the South of China; this, however, has been mainly due to local causes which we may hope before long to see disappear; but, viewed as a whole, the foreign trade of China continues to expand while that of Japan has shown remarkable progress, notwithstanding the continuance of hostilities. In the happy event of peace results from the conference now being held in

America there is good reason for anticipating a general revival of trade throughout the Far East, and we may look forward with confidence to the future (Applause).

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. ORANGE—I feel sure the report and accounts placed before us cannot fail to be satisfactory to the shareholders. The increase in dividend will be welcomed, especially in view of the remarks of the Chairman that this would not have been made without the prospect of it being continued. We all trust that the close of the long war is near, bringing about a more secure feeling in trade and business generally. I have much pleasure in seconding the proposition for the adoption of the report and accounts.

The proposition was agreed to unanimously.

The appointment of the Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson and of Messrs. G. H. Medhurst and F. Salinger as directors was confirmed on the motion of Mr. SAUNDERS, seconded by Mr. BARTON.

Mr. G. MURRAY BAIN moved that Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. G. Wood be re-elected auditors.

Mr. JUPP seconded the motion, which was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen; dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

Mr. CRICKSHANK proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Board of Directors, Chief Manager, other Managers and staff, and congratulated them on the satisfactory work during the past six months. Gratifying as the results were, he said, they must not overlook the fact that they owe the very substantial rise in the value of the shares to the able management, care and interest shown by those who bore the heat and burden of the day during the past six months. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN's acknowledgment of the vote concluded the meeting.

A MOTOR REVENUE CRUISER.

A novelty in local shipbuilding construction—a motor Chinese revenue cruiser—the completion and success of which has been eagerly awaited by both foreigners and Chinese in this district, is now moored in the Soochow Creek, opposite the new Boathouse, and is receiving its finishing touches. This is a motor cruiser, which has been constructed by the Chinese General Engineering Company to the order of the Salt Commissioners of this province, for service on the creeks and lakes in the vicinity of Soochow and Wusieh, for the purpose of putting a stop to the illicit trade in salt, which seems to increase from year to year.

The vessel is 55 feet in length by 12 ft. beam and draws less than 2 feet of water. She was designed by and constructed under the supervision of Mr. Olaf Janson, C.E., manager of the China General Engineering Company, who are the local agents for the Truscott Motor Boat Company, with whose motors the vessel is fitted. She is built throughout of teak wood and is undoubtedly one of the most compact boats on the river. Forward on the main deck is a Skoda quickfiring gun, easy of manipulation and capable of discharging from 480 to 500 rounds per minute. Immediately aft of this are steps leading down to a commodious cabin, affording ample and commodious accommodation for thirty native soldiers. Amidships is the galley and pantry, abaft of which is the engine room, in which are installed two Truscott motors of 24 horse-power each, fitted with Edison six-cell batteries and dynamos and spark-coils—models of neatness and compactness and though looking complicated, very simply worked. These can be worked together or independently, driving twin screws, and propel the vessel at the rate of about nine knots per hour or can turn her in little more than her own length. Forward, in the fore-hold, is a very strong, ribbed tank, with a capacity for 100 gallons of gasoline, and as the consumption of gasoline is less than one pint per horse-power per hour, it will be seen that the supply of gasoline will last for longer than any ordinary voyage the vessel may have to undertake.

Aft of the engine-room is a very comfortable cabin for the mandarin in charge of the vessel,

fitted with two berths, upholstered in crimson plush, and containing lavatory, and ample locker accommodation. The awning-deck runs almost the whole length of the vessel, affording an excellent promenade for the commander of the vessel, and forward on this deck is a well-fitted little wheel-house with telegraph to the motor-room.

The new cruiser is a very serviceable boat and has already had a trial trip in the course of which she proved capable of answering all requirements. No doubt her builders will ere long be the recipients of many further orders for boats of a similar class.—N. C. Daily News.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MANILA SHARE QUOTATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS." 10th August.

SIR,—With reference to your leader of 2nd inst. anent my firm's circular of 23rd ult., I am sorry to see you question my veracity. I give proof at foot of the Philippines Co. quotations I then gave, and in circular 46 I shall prove the other things. In fairness to me I would ask you to publish this letter. This cable is private, of course.—Yours faithfully,

WALTER A. FITTON.

** The "proof at foot" was an instruction from Hongkong to buy 100 shares Philippines Co., Ltd., at \$3, on July 25th, in answer to a request for an offer. That was in pesos: the Mex. quotation at this end at that time was "\$9½ sellers." The actual market value is still a mystery.

THE NEW CANTON ICE COMPANY.

The Oriental Construction Company have taken over the contract for the construction of an Ice Company at Canton. The company promoting the venture has been reorganised, finances are well in hand, and an early start will be made with the plant. The construction company are confident of having it erected before the contract time expires, and in time for the next hot season. Fifty tons of ice will be turned out per day, and in addition there will be a distilling plant capable of turning out 30 gallons of distilled water per day.

THE CHINESE WAY.

We are indebted to the N. C. Daily News for the following good story:—

The completion of a Revenue Cruiser to protect the salt gabelle in the creeks and lakes in the vicinity of Soochow recalls a perfectly true story that was well known here. When steam launches were much less common than they are now, Shanghai was startled by the announcement that six native-owned launches were to be offered at once by auction. It turned out that they had been used to protect the salt gabelle, but the smugglers had complained that these launches were making their business unprofitable. They were prepared to be chased by any number of native gunboats, but if steam launches were used, they would be obliged to withdraw their contributions to the private exchequers of the officials. The officials saw the justice of this complaint (this was some years ago) and the steam launches were sent down to Shanghai and sold.

VICEROY SHUM'S SCHEME OF ARMY REFORM.

[From the Chung Ngai Sai Po.]

Viceroy Shun has again asked his subordinate officers to take steps to abolish the army corps of the old form throughout the province of Kwangtung and to instruct the different prefects and magistrates to devise plans to institute local police forces for the protection of the places concerned instead of the army corps which, he says, cannot be much relied on, being generally composed of weak and aged people. He memorialized the throne last year asking permission to abolish all the army corps of the old form but the Peking Government was afraid that if the army corps were to be put an end to in such a hurry, it would

give rise to endless trouble, so that Viceroy Shun was asked to postpone the question for a year to see what remedy could be devised. He says there are in all at present 28,804 men in the army and navy of the province of Kwangtung, drawing wages amounting to over six hundred and ten thousand taels annually, excluding rice to the quantity of more than twenty two thousand "shek," which are distributed among the soldiers and sailors. Thus a heavy sum is drawn annually from the treasury of the Canton Government to keep the navy and army, the latter being evidently composed of people of not much value. The military department in Peking has again sent instruction to the Canton Government asking it to form immediately a new army composed of strong and brave men selected from various districts to be drilled according to modern methods; and to abolish all the old army corps stationed at various places, so as to utilise the expenses to keep the new army. The Viceroy says that the reformation of the army, which he was compelled to put aside for a time on account of the financial difficulty, is of the utmost importance at present, so that the old army corps must be abolished without delay. The provincial treasurer and the directors of Sin-Kau-Kuk, the board of local affairs, have been consequently ordered by the Viceroy to take steps to abolish the old army corps and to devise means to give protection to different places, the question of which must be answered within a month.

Our own correspondent at Canton announced some days ago that a large number of Japanese military instructors had arrived.

AMERICAN BOYCOTT AT HONGKONG.

14th August.

CHINESE ANGRY.

On Aug. 14th a meeting of Chinese to organise a local boycott of American commodities was opened at the Chinese Commercial Union's premises in the City.

About 800 had assembled, and more were being turned away. No business was done, as an official intimation was received at the beginning that such meetings were illegal and forbidden.

We are informed that, "the people were very angry."

A meeting confined to members of the Commercial Union is to be held August 14th.

15th August.

A preliminary meeting of Chinese, in connection with the boycott of American goods locally, was held at the Chinese Commercial Union on August 14, about 33 persons being present.

Those present decided to petition H.E. the Governor for permission for the local Chinese to hold a meeting in connection with the boycott, as under an Ordinance passed in 1888 it is illegal for them to assemble together without that permission.

Many local firms are now publishing notices to the effect that having no American goods in stock, they are unable to supply customers with the stuff.

16th August.

Signs are not lacking that among the Chinese of the Colony the boycott of American products and manufactures which is in force in many parts of the Chinese empire is cordially supported here. Several of the Chinese newspapers are refusing to accept advertisements of American goods, while on the other hand it is to be noticed that Chinese tradesmen are giving prominence in their advertisements to intimations that their goods are of English or German or in fact any origin but American. A well known Chinese resident with whom a member of the *Daily Press* staff had a conversation on the subject yesterday remarked that he had seen American cigarettes being scattered in the roadway near the Central market to be trodden on.

"And the cigarette-loving coolies and small boys—do they not look on these showers of cigarettes as manna from Heaven? Do they not fall over each other in their eagerness to annex as many of them as possible?" asked the reporter.

"Oh no" was the reply "there is patriotism even in the breast of the coolie."

The reporter ruminated on the subject, but his knowledge of the Hongkong coolie and his ways makes belief in this extraordinary story of self-denial very difficult.

A few placards have been posted in the Colony counselling Chinese not to patronise the lower level trams, the authors of the placard assuming the trams to be an American enterprise. As a matter of fact, the trams are owned by a British syndicate, and all the plant is of British manufacture. These placards were not printed, but written, and it ought not to be impossible for the police to discover their author.

17th August.

COMPRADORE'S LIFE THREATENED.

Already a secret society is in existence locally for the purpose of pressing the boycott, and unless active measures are taken for its suppression trouble is likely to follow. The society terms itself the "Anti Exclusion Act Society," and its posters, which are growing more threatening, are hand written.

On Aug. 16 the attention of Mr. G. Hogarth, Chief Excise Officer, was attracted to the wall of a house in Bonham Strand West at which a crowd of coolies were gaping. On approaching he saw a hand written poster, and learned that it was in connection with the boycott, and threatened the life of Mr. Fung Wa Chun. Tearing it down, he took it to this gentleman who had a translation made. The placard reviled and most infamously libelled him in a way which, even with his permission, we cannot publish; and it then went on: "He never looked after his own countrymen's interests re the boycott. If anybody will get his head they will be awarded \$2,000; if they shoot and kill him they will get \$1,000; if they wound, hurt or frighten him to make him sick, they will get \$500. We never swallow our words. This notice is issued by the Anti Exclusion Act Society."

"P.S.—The Lower Level Tramway Company was started by Americans, and Fung Wa Chun is that company's manager. All our compatriots ought to show their patriotic feeling by refusing to patronise the tramway."

In discussing the matter with a representative of this paper, Mr. Fung Wa Chun stated that his sympathies were with the boycotters, but he was not going beyond the pale of the law for them, no matter how many posters were posted about town. If H.E. the Governor consented to a meeting, then he would convene one, but of that consent were withheld he would take no further action in the matter. In conclusion Mr. Fung remarked that he did not think his hair would stand on end, or his slumbers be disturbed by the contents of the poster. He treated it, in fact, with the contempt it deserves.

STEVEDORES JOIN.

We learn that the coolies of Hongkong are discussing a proposal to cease working cargo in the harbour on any ship flying the American flag.

18th August.

A particularly offensive cartoon, torn down and brought to the *Daily Press* office, increases our desire that the detectives may soon be able to catch the boycott fanatics who have been breaking the law in this way. The filthy, slanderous cartoons which are given publicity on the walls of houses are a disgrace to the Colony; and not only a disgrace, but a menace to one who, by the action he has taken, has shown that he has not deserved the resentment of the boycotters. We refer to Mr. Fung Wa Chun, who has been made a scapegoat in the eyes of his illiterate countrymen by a most obscene cartoon which was posted on a wall in Cleverly Street, and ogled by large crowds of coolies. The writing on the cartoon reads:—"Fung Wa Chun is a slave to the Americans. A great number of shares in the Electric Tramway Company belong to Americans; you must not travel by the trams, otherwise you will be American slaves."

19th August.

MEETINGS FORBIDDEN.

In reply to his letter to H. E. the Governor asking permission to convene a meeting of Chinese to consider what action should

taken with regard to the boycott of American goods, Mr. Fung Wa Chun on Aug. 18 received a reply from the Colonial Secretary to the effect that His Excellency could not consent to the holding of such a meeting.

As part of the local Chinese press has been publishing scurrilous articles anent certain Chinese gentlemen in connection with the boycott, Mr. Irvine, Registrar General, yesterday called before him the editors who permitted such articles to be published, and warned them to be more careful in future.

A representative of the *Daily Press* was informed yesterday of the supposed reason why the Chinese billposter has so far evaded the detectives while posting up boycott cartoons. The man with the brush carries along with the cartoons other posters advertising businesses or goods. The boycott cartoon is first posted on the wall, then paste is put on the four corners of the advertisement poster which is stuck over the cartoon, and the billposter passes on. There next appears a long robed gentleman with his umbrella, presumably a member of the Anti Exclusion Act Society. The umbrella is run in behind the advertisement poster, which is ripped off leaving the boycott cartoon in full view.

This fanciful theory may be warranted in some cases, but certainly not in all. A written placard was posted in open daylight yesterday morning, at a place and time where and when there was no policeman in sight. The rascals watch the police.

21st August.

AN ANTI-TRAM CARTOON: COOLIE DEMANDED FOR ENQUIRIES.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on August 19, Inspector Smith charged a coolie with having posted a boycott cartoon on the wall of a house at Praya East without the permission of the Registrar-General.

The cartoon exhibited a drawing of an electric tram, the seats of which were occupied by beasts, vermin and reptiles; while the writing underneath was, "Beware! Look at this."

A lukong gave testimony to the effect that he saw the coolie post the notice; and Inspector Smith applied for a remand, as he had been unable to learn anything concerning the defendant.

THE BOYCOTT OFFENCES AT AMOY

The *Foochow Echo* says:—The facts of the insult to the American flag at the American Consulate at Amoy, are as follows. Mr. Anderson, the Consul, reports that on the night of the 18th July, the flag-halyard of the American Consulate flag pole was pulled down and a nuisance committed at the base of the pole and a placard against Americans posted on the pole evidencing a direct and intentional insult to the American flag. He wrote to the Taotai stating the circumstances and he promised to punish the offenders but made no amends for the insult. Nor has he arrested any one in this connection. He wrote to him again asking that the usual courtesy of a national salute be fired by a gun boat in the harbour and he was given informal assurance that this would be done. Later it seems that the Haifongting declared that the firing of such a salute would be taken as opposition to the anti-American agitation, whereupon the local officials refused to order the salute. They thus give their approval to the anti-American movement and to the insult to the American flag which has resulted from it. Mr. Anderson, therefore, reported the matter to the American Legation, and Mr. Rockhill took it up with the Wai Wu Pu. He also communicated with His Excellency the Viceroy, through Dr. Gracey, the American Consul at this port, who took up the matter with the Provincial authorities, with the result that on Friday the 4th inst. H. E. telegraphed instructions to Amoy that a salute should be fired at once, and a special deputy was appointed to proceed to Amoy to make further investigations, and report what measure may be necessary to insure peace and quietness in the port. Consul Gracey sent the following message to Mr. Rockhill. "His Excellency Tsung has ordered the firing of a salute to the

flag at the American Consulate, Amoy, to-day, thus showing official condemnation of vandal indignity. He also appoints special deputy to proceed to Amoy to investigate other complaints." The claim of the American Consuls is that if such an act of indignity should be allowed to pass without official rebuke, worse deeds of violence might be expected to occur. They commend H.E. for the course he has taken thus far in this matter, in his instructions to the local authorities to discover the offenders.

BOYCOTT FORBIDDEN BY CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

A proclamation issued by the Waiwupu concludes as follows:—

There is cause for apprehension, however, that evil characters may take the opportunity to create disturbances and influence the ignorant masses to break the peace. In view of this, therefore, the Waiwupu states that it is most important that steps be taken to exhort everyone to be patient and quietly await the result of the said Board's deliberations on the subject. His Excellency the Governor, having sent a reply by telegram to the Waiwupu, now instructs the Bureau of Commerce to issue this proclamation to inform all concerned that as the new treaty is still being deliberated upon by the Waiwupu, and that nothing definite has as yet been decided, all gentry, merchants and literati are exhorted to wait patiently for the instructions of the Waiwupu and cast away all doubts and suspicions, and they are also further asked to exhort the labouring classes and common people amongst them to await the result of the deliberations of the Waiwupu in the same manner, and refrain from listening to the evil influences of the rowdy element, and thereby avoid creating disturbances which will only end to their own detriment. Let all respectfully obey. An important proclamation.

3rd year of Kuang Hsü. 28th day of the 6th moon (30th July, 1905).

JAPANESE KINDNESS AND COSSACK CRUELTY.

The *Peking Times* learns of an act of kindness by the Japanese from an Italian gentleman who has just arrived from Moukden, which will commend itself to everyone. During the evacuation of that place by the Russians the gentleman referred to was assaulted in the early morning by some Cossacks who demanded money from him. He refused to give them any, and one of the Cossacks slashed at his head with his sword. In putting up his hands to defend his head he received a terrible wound, the sword penetrating right through his hand and cleaving the skull. The Japanese arrived shortly afterwards and finding him in his house learnt the details and immediately procured a military doctor who gave him every assistance and called twice a day for one week to dress his wounds. Remembering the amount of work which devolved on the medical corps at this time, the kindness is most noteworthy.

FENWICK AND CO. PROSECUTED.

INDUSTRIAL NOISE OBJECTED TO.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, at the Police Court on Aug. 18, Messrs Fenwick and Co. were charged at the instance of Sergeant Blackman with unlawfully, between sunset and sunrise, making certain noises calculated to annoy and disturb the peace and tranquillity of the vicinity.

Mr. Looker (of Messrs. Peacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the defence.

Sergeant Blackman stated—At 1 a.m. on the 11th instant I was on duty at Praya East. I heard noises like the hammering of iron coming from Messrs. Fenwick and Co.'s works at Kennedy Road. The noises were loud enough to keep everybody in the vicinity awake.

His Worship—I have had this company brought before me by the police two or three times now. I think some citizen who heard the noise should be produced, as has been done in former cases. As the company are going to move the summons might be re-entered. In the meantime I will adjourn the case *sine die*.

NAVAL FOOD.

[WRITTEN FOR THE "DAILY PRESS" BY "WAVING PLUME."]

The extract by "Royal Navy" in the July *Fleet*, which we published in the *Daily Press* of August 10th, drew attention to the contrast between the actual food a man does get on board a man-of-war and that which the recruiting posters lead him to suppose he will get upon joining the royal navy. Like so many of our official statements, the naval food looks on paper a most excellent and generous allowance; but if a man were to consider a moment, he would notice that the poster refers to quantity only: nothing is said about the quality. Within the last few years the question as to the rations supplied on board ship has been brought before Parliament with very little result because it is quite a different matter discussing naval rations theoretically in London with a full stomach to discussing the rations in remarkably solid fact on board a ship, say in Hongkong Harbour, with an empty one! The difference between theory and practice is frequently a very wide one. The theoretical ration as set forth on the recruiting poster gives one the impression that a sailor is allowed so much to eat that he can as a rule make a little pocket money by 'savings' with which he can purchase nice little extras to make the luxurious fare still more luxurious! By 'savings' is meant that those parts of his rations which a man feels are superfluous and beyond his modest appetite may remain undrawn and a money credit allowed in lieu. Of course the recruit imagines that any 'savings' will be paid over to himself and is much disappointed to find that the question of official generosity is a mere joke at his expense—just a quibble. So far from 'savings' being paid to the man he finds he has got to produce pocket money to assist the 'savings' in paying for those extras at the Canteen which are necessary for the making up of a square meal! There is no such thing really as official philanthropy either at the Admiralty or the War Office. The sole idea in publishing any regulation to do with the members of our Forces appears to be to so word them that at a casual glance they appear to the public as generous promises, whereas, if examined closely they will be found a cleverly veiled trick for putting the hand into our soldiers' and sailors' pockets. Read the published inducements to a man to join the Royal Navy. "He will receive an ample supply of provisions free—a free ration is given, including 1 lb of meat! &c.—For any portion not taken up 'savings' are paid with which relishes can be bought at the Canteen!" It almost sounds sumptuous! and in years to come Great Britain on the strength of such a document will probably attribute her Naval success to the open handed manner in which she treated the Naval Stomach! As a matter of fact it makes a sailor positively sick to hear all the bombast of the "Roast beef of old England" being accountable for any of our National success. The man who doesn't have to fight may have plenty of the "solid beef and a'e, Sir!" but he takes particular care to see that the man who does have to fight gets but a very modest share of it. The Official mind argues thus: "What is the cheapest stuff we can lay our hands on with which to feed our noble defenders?" The Official mind, elevated once per week by a visit to Church, considers it has providentially been furnished with a minimum dietary in the parable of the famous Prodigal son, "fain to fill his belly with the husks that the swine did eat." The Official mind, after a good square meal, argues that you may say what you like but anyhow the Prodigal Son managed to become famous somehow or other and did it on husks, mind you! Why not try something similar on the sailors? We mustn't call our special food 'husks' of course or the Public will be on our track. Good idea! Give 'em husks and call it 'ample provision'! As an instance of this take the 'bread' question. There is absolutely no reason nowadays why bread—i.e. bread as we understand it—should not be made on board or, on short voyages, carried. Admiralty Officials when questioned why this cannot be done look very wise and say "Quite impracticable, my dear

Sir!" We have evidence before us, however, that as far ago as 1891, it was done—unofficially of course—and that in a Corvette with about the minimum of facility. The truth is the Admiralty Official knows perfectly well that the sailor will not eat the biscuit supplied under the guise of 'Bread.' The biscuit is possibly the next hardest thing known after the diamond. But the Admiralty official also knows equally well that his little puff in the Advertisements about 'savings' would be lost if he supplied the sailor with something he could eat! Speaking generally the biscuit brought on board is merely ornamental and is issued only when it becomes necessary to empty it overboard in a state of weevilly activity! A man saves a few pence on the 'ample supply' of this provision which he cannot eat and has to spend a few shillings on supplying himself with something that he can eat. The article referred to concludes with these words:

But are the official rations ample? In Quantity, Yes! Each ship has a 'bread' room in which is stored the ship's biscuit. No one wants it and there it remains to be carried round the world, the men taking a small money equivalent for it which goes to partly pay for bread bought from the Canteen which, whatever its quality, is at least eatable. Is that the end for which we maintain our Victualling Yards?"

In a Battleship some years ago was a Chaplain so clever as to be accounted amongst ordinary men a mere fool. Having read some rubbish about edible fungus, he stepped on shore and picked up some most unsavoury examples of the toad-stool variety. These he handed to the ship's cook to replace the ordinary Officers' dinner. Like the Admiralty Biscuit no one would swallow this luxury. Fortunately, however, unlike the Biscuit supplier, the supplier of this dainty, being present in person, the Officers considered it only just that he should be forced to make a meal off his own patent food. The result was instantaneous! Edible fungus was never introduced into the Navy again! The supply proved more than ample for the demand! And further it is reported that the reverend gentleman never even thought of fungus again without shuddering from head to foot. Habits and customs in eating change. The tribes inhabiting the shores of Terra del Fuego are contented with a diet of worms or any other creeping things found locally; the ostrich may thrive on a meal of brass candlesticks and soda-water bottles; and the goat looks upon a local newspaper as quite a banquet for mind and body. The sailor, however, is only a mere man and his digestive organs should be considered from this point of view. If he asks for bread, it is a shame to give him a stone.

TRADE OF COREA.

The report on the trade of Corea includes the following:—The principal highway being thus open and safe from war interference, there were not wanting exceptional inducements to trade. Cereals of every kind yielded excellent crops throughout the country, and the requirements of the Japanese forces—and in Hamkyeng-do of the Russian forces—created an easy market for these foodstuffs without the trouble and expense of transportation abroad. Native labour, too, was employed on a large scale, and well remunerated, in connection with the movement of troops and the work on the Seoul-Fusan and Seoul-Wiju railways. Many unwonted millions of yen were thus, in consequence of the war and the railway construction which it so greatly accelerated, distributed among the Korean people. Never before, it is safe to say, has the average Coraan had so much to spend, and the Import tables shew how freely he has spent it and how great and immediate is the advantage to Foreign trade which may be expected to follow any improvement in his circumstances. Another, less gratifying consequence of the abundance of employment and higher wages was the greatly increased cost of living, both for Natives and Foreigners, prices having risen in many cases 50 to 100 per cent.

It is noteworthy that more than half the imports of the year arrived in the last four months.

ON A CHINESE CARGO BOAT.

AMUSING REMINISCENCES OF MR.
ALLEYNE IRELAND.

The *Ban Watt Soon* steamed into sight early one morning, and by noon I was alongside in a small native boat with my servant and my baggage. The sea was perfectly smooth and the unshapely, evil-smelling hull of the *Ban Watt Soon* rose from the ocean like some resurrected scrap heap—a mass of rust, dirt and uncategorized jotsam of coast travel.

The cargo of the *Ban Watt Soon* had been picked up at a dozen small ports on the eastern shore of the Malay peninsula. Of what there was stored below decks I cannot speak, for the hatches were mercifully battened down; but the deck cargo included pigs, dried fish, eggs (of which a sufficient number were broken to stir every note in the gamut of olfactory perception), fruit in every stage of decay, and more than 5,000 fowls.

This commerce of hens between the small native states of Kelantan and Tringganu and the great port of Singapore is entirely in the hands of Chinamen, and the national character of the trade carries with it the most appalling consequences for the non-celestial passenger on the "hen" boats.

To a Chinaman "economy" is writ large across the page of life. For the true native of the Flowery Kingdom economy is the mother of invention, the soul of wit, nature's first law, the ten commandments, the thirty-nine articles, the law and the prophets. And so John, striving for economy, but innocent of all scientific knowledge thereof according to our standards, solves the problem of the transportation of hens something after this fashion:

"The steamship company will not carry uncaged hens; the birds must be packed in crates and the freight is charged per crate and not per bird. These conditions are examined by the Chinaman through the lens of Chinese economy and a principle is evolved. As the charge is per crate, and not per bird, the closer the birds are packed the less the freight works out per hen (as any actuary or mathematician can tell you).

The application of this principle gives very definite results. A crate which might reasonably hold twenty birds is crowded with 100, and eighty of these die before they reach market. To the superficial Caucasian observer the facts might suggest the classical answer to the famous riddle: "Why in an army mule?" namely, "The more the fewer." But it is not so in fact, for the thing works out like this. To the Chinaman buying food no food is bad, the standard being price, not quality. A fine healthy bird, newly taken from a career of domination in the yard, costs so much; a livid corpse, with here and there a bedraggled feather attesting an ancient, nay, almost a legendary past, costs so much; and between the extremes you may find every degree in the fool value of a dead fowl as carefully graded as an apothecary's scales, and buyers all along the line.

So John packs his crate full of birds, lights a handful of imitation paper money by way of burnt offerings to the gods, and hopes for the best. The best usually works out on stock taking at Singapore at about twenty live birds in 100, fifty more or less dead, and thirty so fatally across the line that no application of red pepper to the eyes or boiling water to the feet can evoke a cackle.

The *Ban Watt Soon* had a brave burden of fowl crates. They were piled high on the decks; they filled the life boats; they nestled against the smokestack; they hung over the sides; they clung to the stern: no place in all that ship, visible from the bridge, but yielded up day and night a farm yard chorus, growing feeble and feeble as the ranks of the living went down to swell the ranks of the dead.

Thus we fared to Singapore in the *Ban Watt Soon*. I have a hazy recollection that the food was unspeakably bad, that there was a drunken photographer on board who would fight me because I preferred Rodinal to pyro; that every creeping and crawling thing which bites and stings the human frame in the tropic night held high revelry at which we were the hosts.

It may have been so! I cannot tell. For me the *Ban Watt Soon* was a ship of hens, and nothing more. The impression is deep, and shows no signs of weakening. To this day

chicken a la Maryland is as impossible for me to imagine for the purposes of food as a red-haired oyster would be to the laurel-crowned Alfred for the subject of a lyric.

THE CHANGSHA INJUSTICE.

The *Peking Times* says:—We understand that Sir Ernest Satow has done his best on Mr. Bennertz's behalf, as our experience of Sir Ernest would lead us to expect, but the unfortunate merchant has lately sent an appeal to Shanghai to say that it is no use and that he is a ruined man. There is an adverse destiny which overrules justice and rights represented by a body of extremely young and extremely ignorant subordinates in Downing Street, and the Martians in authority are careful and troubled about many things and thereby miss the real *raison d'être* of their existence, the protection and furtherance of British interests. Mr. Bennertz has hung on to his position first, of course, in defence of his invested capital there, but also because he has entertained a pathetic faith in the omnipotence of British prestige and the hope that by patience of faith he might secure for his countrymen, as for himself, the recognition of his lawful rights and theirs. As a solitary case of a British merchant the attitude of the home authorities might be condoned, but Mr. Bennertz stands for principle. New ports and trading centres are being opened continually now, and in the natural course of events foreign interests in these new fields will be worked up by enterprising units of the empire. New fields are opened up by British merchants singly, not in regiments, and the British trade in each port was originally started by "one" British merchant. If, therefore, the fate of such one is to be treated in this cavalier fashion, and if British documents are to be ignored and trampled on by Chinese officials with impunity, British enterprise will naturally think twice before it incurs such risks as are here instanced, and the result will be that the new fields will be exploited by those whose Governments frown and thump the table when such things are done. It is satisfactory, no doubt, to be big enough to ignore these things, and to be able to afford the loss of a little trade here and there; but we are rapidly approaching the time, if we have not already reached it, when to us here in China every mickle will count, and if we mistake not, British merchants in all the treaty ports will feel as much interest in Mr. Bennertz's case and as much sympathy for him as their cores in Shanghai.

ALLEGED BIG-THEFT AT
SHANGHAI.

ARREST AT HONGKONG.

Sergeant Earner of the Water Police boarded the s.s. *Kinking* on her arrival in port on the August 14th from Shanghai and arrested Wing Hok, who was immediately charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court with unlawfully having in his possession \$158.40 in silver, eight gold bangles, six gold hairpresses, ten gold hairpins, eight gold finger rings, one pair of jade stone bangles, eleven pairs of ear-rings, two sets gold tooth picks, one gold watch and chain, one box of pearls, one ring, one box of jade stone drops, one receipt for \$500, two boxes of stones, two watch keys and one silver clip of a total value of \$2,953.40, property stated to have been stolen at Shanghai.

Defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge and the case was remanded for a week.

ALLEGED MURDER IN YUNAN.

ACCUSED RE-ARRESTED AT HONGKONG.

Inspector Hanson boarded the s.s. *Kinslan* on her arrival here on the 14th August and arrested W. Siwa, a German Pole, who, while employed as a ganger on the Yunan railway, is alleged to have shot and murdered a Chinaman employed in his gang in June last. Accused was brought here from Canton for safe custody until he could be transmitted to Germany for trial. He was placed before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court yesterday, and on His Worship satisfying himself as to the identity of the man, he committed him to gaol pending further orders from H.E. the Governor.

THE LIKIN QUESTION.

The *Tientsin Times* says:—Notification was made a few days ago that *likin* had been officially abolished in all provinces, and in accordance with news from the south the *likin* stations were closed towards the end of June, and there was very general rejoicing thereat. As we have always firmly maintained would be the case, however, the offices were reopened a few days later for the purpose of collecting the general tax which is the substituted source of provincial revenue, and chiefly distinguished from the old *likin* by being 100 per cent. heavier. The *N.-C. Daily News* has, we notice, a correspondence which bears out our remarks:—

"Yes, the *likin* offices have been abolished, but the houses were not torn down and the personnel not dismissed, except possibly for an hour or two. The doors which were shut have been opened again. The old regime has taken up operations again under the new name indicated, both at the *likin* stations and the surtax office, with this one difference, that the old wolf has returned in sheep's clothing with his teeth sharpened.

The proclamation issued stated that no goods, either of import or export, will be exempted. Goods will be taxed at the old rates with the exception that, whereas 1,100 cash was formerly accepted as payment for one tael of duty levied, now 2,000 cash must be paid."

Shortly after the signing of the Mackay treaty we drew the attention of the China League to the way in which China was bound to "abolish *likin*," and that if the 15 per cent. duty came into operation it would not be as an offset against inland taxation but as an addition to a much heavier drain on foreign trade than ever *likin* represented, and as time goes on we are the more convinced these apprehensions will prove well founded.

THE TALK OF REFORM IN CHINA.

It is reported from Peking that Viceroy Yuan Shih-k'ai in one of his recent memorials to the Throne on the question of effecting real reforms in the country, quoted the reform movement in Japan, in which the latter engaged from the West the services of three or four experts to advise their Government. "When," remarked the Viceroy, "we have learned all there is to know from these experts we can dismiss them." With regard to the question of establishing a parliament, it is stated that in addition to strong representations on the subject to the Throne from Viceroy Yuan Shih-k'ai, Chang Chih-tung, Chou Fu and Tsen Ch'un-hsuen, similar memorials have been received by their Majesties from Sir Cheng-tung Liang-cheng, Chinese Minister at Washington, and Sun Pao-ch'i and Hu Wei-te, Chinese Ministers to the French Republic and Russia, respectively. It is further reported that Yang Ch'u, Chinese Minister in Tokyo, has also sent up a memorial on the same question, but that being a comparatively new man he merely sent it to the Waiwupu to consider, asking whether it would be right to address the Throne on the subject or not.

INTERPORT SHOOTING MATCH.

HONGKONG SECOND.

The first competition for the Wingard Challenge Shield, presented by a member of the Shanghai Gun Club, took place on Saturday, each club shooting on its own ground. The teams consisted of five members who shot at 40 birds each, eighteen yards rise, and in Hongkong (as elsewhere when available) the magau trap was used. Mr. W. R. McD. Parr acted as referee. The result of the match was as follows:—

Sportman's Gun Club, Shanghai	184
Hongkong Gun Club	175
Foochow Gun Club	163
Shanghai Gun Club	162

The individual scores by the members of the Hongkong team were:—

Mr. A. C. Macmillan	38
Mr. H. W. Looker	37
Mr. L. Plummer	35
Capt. E. C. L. Fitzwilliams	33
Mr. H. J. Stabb	32

A YOKOHAMA SENSATION.

An anonymously written book of "Yokohama Yarns" has caused a sensation in that place. It describes the "smart society" there as an immoral lot of people; and it appears that everybody has been "fitting the cap" of the naughty characters on to the heads of actual residents.

Mr. H. J. Sharp, Manager of Kelly and Walsh, its publishers, was not inclined to discuss the book when seen by an *Advertiser* man.

"You might say, however," he finally said "that the sketches are only types and that the irritation they have occasioned is integrally absurd. I myself have known five or six Mrs. Mastertons in Yokohama and the other characters in the book are as composite as this one. A much closer delineation of social Yokohama could be made by anyone who cared to undertake the task—and the result would undoubtedly be considerably more *risque* than 'Yokohama Yarns.' The book on the whole is simply a freshhand outline of conditions which every old foreign resident of Yokohama is cognizant of."

The *Advertiser* seems to hint, by an otherwise unexplainable quotation from Genesis, that the writer was a lady called Adam.

In an article on Society in Yokohama and other ports in the Far East, which appears in the *Japan Advertiser*, arising out of comments on the same book, our contemporary says that—

In so small a community, where sooner or later everything is known by everybody, all legitimate social aspirations on the part of those accustomed to genuine society at home are smothered by indifference and contempt for what goes under the name here. The better people in this community stay at home and mind their own business, having intellectual resources of their own sufficient to compensate them for the deprivation of the social stimulus which they have found in other lands. All the same, the complete absence of anything deserving the name of society in Yokohama is greatly to be deplored, as the vital cause of the lack of moral tone which makes it possible for such a book as that just published to be representative of the conditions prevailing in the community. Furthermore, it should be noted as the most disastrous outcome of some of the stupid cliques which are here masquerading under the name of society, that young men arriving here, and finding no social stimulus or resources save those furnished by the bar-rooms, must needs be possessed of extraordinary strength of character if they avoid drifting into the moral maelstrom depicted by this unspeakable book. Whether they succeed in getting into pseudo-society or are kept out of it they are almost equally to be pitied.

BOYCOTT EXAGGERATIONS.

It is some time since Mr. Rosenstock, of Manila, passed through Hongkong; so that in the following interview with a journalist in Japan, we conclude that he must have exaggerated considerably:—

"When I arrived in Hongkong," said he, "I was in need of some toilet articles which in my hurried departure from Manila I had neglected to pack in my trunk. I could not buy even a piece of American shaving soap at any Chinese shop. American-made collars and shirts were not to be had. All trade in Manila cigars and American made cigarettes had ceased utterly. A Manila cigar could not be had in a Chinese shop."

"When I arrived at Shanghai I found the same conditions extant. There the American merchants were in a state bordering on panic. The specific case of one man will serve to illustrate the condition. This individual has been for several years an agent of a patent electric belt made in America, which has been especially popular with the Chinese. In three years he made a comfortable fortune selling these electric belts. When the boycott was declared in Shanghai the orders for this commodity ceased at once and he had a large consignment on hand that was a dead loss to him. Even a certain taotai who had taken a belt on trial returned it immediately with the word that he could not buy it under any circumstances."

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

Tso Sau, who was employed by a number of Dock painters residing at Wanchai as cook, was left in charge of the house on the 12th August after the residents had gone to work. One of the coolies, who returned home before his friends, found Tso coiled up in bed. On asking what was the matter, the cook told him that at eight o'clock he heard a knock at the back door, and some one called out: "I am an Excise Officer. Make haste." The cook opened the door and three men rushed in. One gripped him by the throat, while the other two proceeded to punch him on the stomach. They then threw him on the bed and proceeded to examine the household effects. Out of one box they took \$32, and finding another box of silk clothes they departed with it. The coolie took the cook to No. 2 Police Station, where he repeated his story to Inspector Gould, who on visiting the premises found that one box had been removed, but that another containing silk clothes was lying open. The assaulted man was also found not to be marked. As they were returning to the station the cook gave a Chinaman who was passing in charge, declaring that he was one of the men who had entered the house. This man, however, established an alibi and was released. On Monday the cook, accompanied by a detective, continued his search for the robbers. While walking along the Praya he said he felt unwell, and would return home. He did, and immediately went to bed, expiring about an hour afterwards. The police, who, after their inspection of the premises and subsequent events, did not place much credence in the cook's story, were again inclined to believe there might be some truth in it, thinking that possibly the man had died from blows received. The postmortem, however, revealed the fact that death was due to beri beri.

HONGKONG TO BE RESTORED TO CHINA.

The *Atlantic Monthly* says:—The era of aggression, exactions of so-called indemnities, and arbitrary seizures of territory, will be ended for ever. This hardly need be said, but it is of such immense importance that it must be given place here. Russia must get out of Manchuria, and stay out. Further than this, the Czar must awake from and abandon his dream of empire upon the Pacific coast of Asia, at least so far as absorption of territory to the south of his present possessions there is a part of it. In like manner, France must cast aside that secret scheme of hers, secret in her imagination, but patent to all the rest of the world, the scheme of acquirement of the entire southern tier of Chinese provinces, by which she has hoped to rival Great Britain in her Indian empire, to put a French block between India and China, and thus end the British plans of open trade routes for opium and other English commodities, routes available to English commerce only. (Germany will recognize the limit to any further expansion of her colony at Chiao Cho in North China. Great Britain will doubtless return Weihaiwei, seized by her when Russia took possession of Port Arthur, to its rightful owner. And it is not beyond the bounds of belief that Hongkong, for years the greatest smuggling depot in the world, may eventually be given back to China, from whom it was wrested at the conclusion of the first Opium War.

SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENTS.

The *Gazette* notifies that His Honour Sir F. T. Pigott, Chief Justice, has, by commissions signed by him, made the following appointments:—

J. W. Lee-Jones, Deputy Registrar and Accountant, and G. H. Wakeman, Land Officer, to be commissioners for taking acknowledgments by married women of the Deeds to be executed by them, so long as they shall hold the said offices aforementioned.

G. H. Wakeman, Land Officer, and C. A. D. Melbourne, Assistant Land Officer, to be commissioners to administer oaths and take declarations, affirmations and attestations of honour in the Court, so long as they shall hold their aforementioned offices.

COPPER COINS.

Chou Fu, Acting Viceroy of Liang Kiang, has submitted a memorial pointing out the evil of trading in copper coins in the provinces.

The minting of copper coins in the provinces was originally intended for the relief of monetary crises and is by no means for gain. The original value of copper is of course less than that of the coin, this difference representing an enormous profit. More minting machinery has therefore been obtained and the output of coins has increased daily. The profits so obtained represent a substantial income for the execution of such reforms as are in want of funds, and even the Lien Ping Chu depends greatly on this source. It is good if this is done properly, but as the coins increase, their value decreases. According to the estimate of a modern financier, the output capacity of the machines now in China is 16,400 millions of copper coins yearly, which equals 164 millions strings of cash. This will effect a great fall in the price of the copper coins, and damage trade. All the provincial authorities comprehend this fact, but simply on account of the demand for reforms and military organization, they adopted such methods reluctantly.

At present, owing to the depreciation of the value of copper coins, the profits of minting have become much less. Those in charge of the mints take no consideration of the quantity already in circulation and think only of the ways and means of disposing of the coins in other provinces, which hastens the fall in price. In the interior parts of the provinces, no copper coins are used, which is quite contrary to the original intention, the relief of the monetary crisis, and unforeseen damage to trade will ensue. The interior has not received any benefit and the thriving ports have sustained disadvantage by the copper coinage. For instance, there are in Kiangsu three mints viz., Nanking, Soochow and Ching-kiang, the output of copper coins being sufficient for use of the province, while there are in Shanghai, Chinkiang and other places, agencies established for the supply of Kuangtung, Hupei, Chèkiang and Fukien. On account of this, copper coins have fallen in value; formerly, 1,300 cash were worth one tael, and now one tael can get 1,400 cash. For the dollar one used to get 84 or 850 but now 96 or 970 cash. The principal income of Kiangnan is derived from land grain and salt taxes and likin on all kinds of goods, which are all paid in cash and converted into taels for remitting to the Treasury. Once the value of cash falls, the loss in conversion is very great. The claims for the payment of indemnity and military expenditure can hardly be met.

The memorialist suggests that orders be given to the provinces where mints exist that each province shall mint and use its own copper coins and not be allowed to trade on such coins in other provinces. The Viceroys and Governors can use their judgment in this matter, if one province is in want of coins, deputies may be sent to other provinces for a further supply. Now, Shantung and Chihli have already prohibited imports from other provinces, and the memorialist asks for the same right for Kiangsu.

The Financial Department and the Board of Revenue were ordered to consider and report.

SIR GERARD NOEL'S LABOURS FOR NAVAL PROGRESS AND REFORM.

The correspondent at Hongkong of the *Naval and Military Record* writes thus:—Few persons outside this command can realise the magnitude and success of Sir Gerard Noel's labours in the interests of progress and reform. Starting with cruising in company (a detail hitherto unknown on the station), the arrival of 14 vessels at Woosung was the biggest squadron assembled at the port during the present generation, and it so impressed the British community of Shanghai that they feted the crews. Ventilation—that indispensable essential to health and comfort in warships—next received Sir Gerard's attention, and so marked were the rapid improvements effected in the system that they surprised even those responsible for an efficient air supply between decks, whilst

material improvement in the health of the crews was soon noticed by the medical officers. The Commander-in-Chief next discovered that the training of the men required considerable modification and adjustment, and he turned his attention to discreetly proportioning the drills and their application to the requirements of the times, and the period which service men had to do, by abolishing much that had been rendered useless, and creating in lieu thereof a definite, concentrated principle of training which removed many difficulties surrounding the vexed problem of short service training and resulted in the "five years" men receiving instruction adequate to their requirements and station afloat, suitable for transfer to the Reserve, and useful when seeking employment in civil life. A reduction of "red tape" was distinctly noticeable after the Commander-in-Chief's first inspection of the Dockyard and shore establishments, and thereafter the transaction of business with economy and despatch enabled ships to prepare for lengthy sea service at short notice. The importance which mechanical knowledge is to play in the future naval officer's career caused Sir Gerard to adopt engine-room training for midshipmen on lines relevant to future possibilities, and to establish continuity of instruction where dislocation prevailed.

Probably no department came more under his immediate eye than the signal branch, which is now in a highly efficient state. Signal ratings have been constantly changed, passing during their stay on the station through all the types of vessels. Shore stations have been improved to meet modern requirements, and wireless telegraphy has been introduced. Landing parties and other exercises have embraced the requisites of physical drill, whilst increased facilities for leave and sport have done much to develop a healthy tone in the lower deck.

That better shooting results would be obtained by allowing gunlayers to cultivate confidence in their own ability was very evident to Sir Gerard Noel, and the system of battle tactics and judging distance was persevered with, resulting, as was expected, in excellent shooting.

Courting a spirit of co-operation from his officers, the Commander-in-Chief has seldom hesitated, and never obdurately declined any proposals from them, and has adopted what there might be in them worthy of a practical test. At the same time, it has never been his custom—and wisely so—to jump at new propositions without carefully sifting their probable results, but an open ear has been given to them, and when the expediency and utility of any suggestions have made themselves apparent their adoption has soon followed.

Few admirals, with their squadron continually on the move and surrounded by uncertain events consequent upon the progress of hostilities on the station, could have accomplished so many useful reforms in so short a time. The *Ocean's* recent shooting may be accepted as a significant commentary of the efforts of Sir Gerard Noel to encourage self-reliance and resourcefulness amongst the personnel of his command.

NOTIFICATION RE DOCUMENTS EXECUTED IN THE COLONIES.

Owing to difficulties which have arisen in connection with the attestation of signatures to documents executed in the Colonies and required for use in England or elsewhere, it is notified in the *Gazette*: (1) That persons who may have occasion to send certificates, powers of attorney, judicial acts or other documents for legal use in the United Kingdom, should have these documents authenticated in the Colony, either by the Governor or by a notary public duly authorised and practising in the Colony; (2) In cases where the documents are intended to be used in foreign countries, the parties should have the documents authenticated in the Colony, either by the Governor or by a notary public. In the latter case, the certificate of the notary public should be authenticated by the consular representative of the country in which it is intended to use the document, or, if there is no such consular representative in Hongkong, the notarial attestation should be authenticated by the Governor.

VICEROY CHOU FU ON MANCHURIAN QUESTION.

The following resume of the memorial of Viceroy Chou Fu regarding Manchuria appeared in various native newspapers on August 10th and was translated by the *Shanghai Mercury* as follows:—

Japan and Russia have been engaged in war for some time and the President of the United States gave his good offices to arrange peace negotiations between the two powers at Washington, and China being a neutral power cannot interfere in the negotiations. However the matters regarding the three Eastern Provinces and especially Port Arthur are intimately related to China. If we simply leave the matter to the hands of the belligerents without being informed and the matters unsettled China must suffer whoever may be the gainer or loser. The belligerents are the cooking utensils while China is meat to be cooked. Future dangers need not be narrated here. The U.S. Government proposed some time ago that the towns in Manchuria shall be opened for foreign trade and the powers shall not be allowed to interfere with the rights of China with a view to maintain the peace of the Far East. Therefore it is now proposed by me to memorialise asking the issue of an Imperial Rescript to the Chinese Minister to Washington to inform the U. S. Government in this matter and state that whichever of the belligerents may win no one shall be allowed to encroach on China's sovereignty in the three Eastern Provinces, over the territory, administrations and also mining affairs. In the matter of opening the towns in Manchuria it is necessary to let all the powers have equal privileges without any partiality while the future system to be adopted to promote the welfare of the three Eastern Provinces' affairs shall be similarly administered to the provinces in China Proper and thus root out all the abuses existing. In my humble view it is necessary to have three main divisions of officials in accordance with the foreign system adopted, namely legislative, executive and judicial, and also it is necessary to have the system of self administration of each village by selecting village councillors, and all the matters relating to police, health and works for making roads and bridges shall be entrusted to the village council and the Government will simply superintend these councils without interfering and thus let the local affairs be dealt with by local funds, and then there will be no trouble of having any unnecessary officials nor any complaints from people and no need of funds wanted being raised. Thus the system of self administration shall be adopted which means a basis for better administration in China. The affairs of the maritime customs and other domestic affairs China shall personally take control of and taxes on smoking and drinking materials may be increased, with which taxes as securities we may raise foreign loans, and with the funds thus raised we may train our army by engaging Japanese military officers to have ten or twenty thousand soldiers so as to maintain order in Manchurian territory. The military funds are abundant in Manchuria in a similar way as that of Hongkong which is a free port yet there is plenty of revenue. The proper steps to take to suppress mounted highwaymen, and the prosperity of the natives shall be taken up and it is also necessary to have mines opened with share capital and to allow the natives to cultivate lands extensively. It is also necessary to have able men without regard to their present positions and to appoint them to the proper posts, etc.

The new American Consul at Mokanshan, welcomed at a missionary meeting, said in his reply:—"The up-to-day, down-to-morrow, type of missionary was a poor exponent of Christian living. Being good comes before doing good. The Chinese probably know that and care less about God, but they cannot fail to appreciate the presence of a holy man living as close to them as the missionary must." The new Consul must have somewhat disconcerted his auditors by setting such a high standard.

COMMERCIAL.

The Kobe Market Report, published under the direction of the Hiogo and Osaka General Chamber of Commerce, dated (Kobe) Hiogo, 1st August, 1905, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Cotton.—American.—The high prices which continue to rule in the home market have brought all forward business to a standstill for the time being. Transactions in new season's crop are in fact extremely meagre, it being reported that 30,000 bales only have been placed, principally by speculators. Spot cargo rules in the neighbourhood of Y31.00 to Y31.50; stocks, however, are small, and holders are not keen sellers. Forward is quoted at Y36.50 for Middling, and Y1.00 higher for Good Middling. Indian.—The high prices of the new crop are prohibiting business, and purchases are estimated to be not more than 30,000 bales. The reason is attributed to the fact that quotations experienced a sudden rise in a comparatively short space of time, and buyers are now preferring to hold off until the situation becomes quieter. It may be mentioned that in the meantime heavy stocks of spot cargo are available; this, combined with the fact that spinners are fully equipped for their requirements for the next few months, has had the effect of causing a depression in the market. Quotations at the close are:—Broach, Y27.00; Akola Khanguam, Y23.50, and Bengal Y23.00. Chinese.—Spot business is reported on a small scale, but nothing doing in forward. Prices are:—Best quality, Y27.00; Common quality, Y25.25. Shirtings.—Greys.—No particular change, but market strong. Whites.—Market somewhat weak, owing to reaction from the high level recently attained. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Business is small owing to advances in the home markets causing sellers to hold out for high prices; country buyers are holding back. Prices may therefore be said to be rather nominal, but the tendency is strong. Worsteds and Woollens.—No business of any kind, except a few small orders for next Summer. Deliveries ex Godown have made a start, and to all appearances the trade is in a healthy condition. Window Glass.—There is nothing new to report, and values are unchanged. Metals.—All round dull and neglected. Stocks for nearly every description heavy. Prices are below replacing cost. Pig-iron.—Stocks are tremendously heavy, and it will take months before they are used up. Bar-iron and Wire Nails.—Stocks are also far in excess of the demand, and values are low. Chemicals.—The market for Caustic Soda is and has been dull, owing to less demand from consumers. The market for Bicarbonate of Soda has declined owing to overstock. The market for Alkali is a little better, as it is hard to convey cargo from Kobe owing to lack of lighters and coolies. Lately the freight has increased extraordinarily so that holders are compelled to raise the market price. Sugar.—Hongkong refined.—Market still very dull, with little sign of revival at present. Beet.—Although this is supposed to be the busiest season for the sale of Sugar, the demand for Beet continues sluggish, and last quotation for German Crystals is barely maintained, and light stock notwithstanding. Osaka Refined.—4,800 bags were offered at Auction on the 25th July, out of which only 1,300 were sold, the remainder being withdrawn. Prices obtained were the same as at the previous sales, with the exception of Crystals, which were 3 sen up. Rice.—Market weak. Only small sales have taken place since our last report. Kerosene.—Market is very dull.

EXPORT.

Tea.—Supplies of medium and low grades have come forward freely, and the tendency of the market is weaker. Supplies of choice grades are about exhausted, and the stock now on hand does not offer much inducement to purchasers. Settlements for the last fortnight amount to piculs 8,000, making a total of piculs 66,000 against piculs 88,000 at 31st July last year. Fish Oil.—Market is weak and declining. Fair stocks are offering without, however, any buyers. Quotation for Herring and Sardine Oil is Y4.40, per picul. Copper.—No transactions to report; market remains quiet, but firm. Rice.—The fine weather favours the prospects of the new crop. Bourses in consequence show a declining tendency. Cotton Yarns.—This fortnight business has been very poor. The low temperature prevailing during the first week of "Doyo" created further anxiety for the next rice harvest, and the interior piece-goods markets became inactive, which reacted on the demand for Yarn. On the Sampin Exchange market was weak and dropping owing to the want of any operators willing and able to take up July tenders. During the past day or

two the feeling all round is distinctly better. Vegetable Wax.—Market decidedly strong in refiners' favour. Considerable transactions have been done at advancing prices, which are, however, now steady at Y26.00 per picul for September to October delivery, with a further upward tendency. Straw Braids.—Prices continued to advance steadily during the past fortnight, and business was somewhat restricted in consequence. Consuming markets gradually but reluctantly responded to the advances recorded on this side, and the market was a little more active towards the latter part of the period under review, prices remaining very firm with upward tendency. Plaiters' ideas in regard to prices of Chip Braids were generally too high to allow of much business and the market is rather quiet in consequence, although, in view of the increased cost of production, prices are well maintained. Matting.—Market firm, with an upward tendency. Stocks of all grades scarce and firmly held. Common Jacquards, Y17.00.

TEA.

HANKOW, 19th August.—Business reported since the 2nd inst. is as under:—

	1905	1904
Settlements	3,980	787
S'ments to Shanghai (Nat. a c)	1,347	1,056
Consisting of the following Teas:		

	1905	1904
Ningchows	636 at Tls. 14.75 per picul	
Oopacks	355 at Tls. 10.80	
Conams	1,243 at Tls. 10.50	
Oonfaas	1,436 at Tls. 12.50	
Seang-tams	104 at Tls. 11.00	
Ichangs	205 at Tls. 26.00	

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 10th August, 1904:

	1905	1904
HANKOW TEA.		
Settlements	424,783	575,472
S'ments to Shanghai (Nat. a c)	72,055	1,039
Stock	33,005	12,182

	1905	1904
Arrivals	466,993	584,693

	1905	1904
KIUKIANG TEA.		
Settlements	175,461	195,102
S'ments to Shanghai (Nat. a c)	3,401	8,171
Stock	5,993	9,699

	1905	1904
Arrivals	185,858	213,575

SILK.

CANTON, 21st August, 1905.—Crops.—It is interesting to compare the figures of the first three crops with those of the last two years: the following include only the bales available for Export:—

	1905	1904	1903	
1st Crop	1,500	3,500	5,500	bales
2nd Crop	9,000	4,000	6,500	"
3rd Crop	6,000	7,000	10,000	"
	16,500	14,500	22,000	bales

Fourth Crop.—The very dry weather lately, and damage to the mulberry leaves by insects, have lowered both the quality and quantity of this crop. Long-reels.—During the fortnight there were still eager buyers at our quotations, and but for the shortage in the 3rd and 4th crops, a large business would have resulted; at the close, principal holders, anticipating a new advance, have withdrawn from the market. The "Natives," 11/13-13/15-14 18, have been in brisk demand. From sales made we quote:—Fong Wing Wo Lun 11/13 at \$800; Kwong Lun Hing 11/13 at \$870; Shun King 13/15 at \$840; Hop King Wo 18/22 at \$775; Suey Wo Cheong 11/13-13/15-14 18 at \$775; Yee Wo Lun 11/13-13/15-14 18; Yee Wo Hing 11/13-13/15-18; Hing Lun 11/13-13/15-18; and Tung On 11/13-13/15-14 18 at \$770 each. Short-reels.—Have also had a fair share of enquiry but only a few transactions have taken place, holders being reluctant to sell both for spot cargo and forward deliveries. \$870 have been paid for Kwong Wo Hing 11/16. Waste Silk.—Speculators have control of the market, and no legitimate trade can be done at present. Stock of silk in Canton: 100 bales.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 19th August.—The downward tendency continues, market being dull.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.45 to \$2.50
" Round, good quality	3.50 to 3.75
" Long	3.85 to 3.90
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.44 to 2.68
" Garden, No. 1	3.10 to 3.25
" White	3.90 to 3.95
" Fine Cargo	4.00 to 4.20

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 18th August.—The prices are declining, market being weak.

Shanghai, No. 1, White	\$8.50 to \$8.60 pels
Do. 2, White	7.20 to 7.30 "
Do. 1, Brown	6.90 to 7.00 "
Do. 2, Brown	6.70 to 6.80 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	\$8.80 to 8.90 "
Do. 2, White	7.50 to 7.60 "
Do. 1, Brown	6.50 to 6.60 "
Do. 2, Brown	6.30 to 6.40 "
Fenchow Sugar Candy	11.50 to 11.60 "
Sheklong	12.80 to 12.90 "

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 10th August 1905. We beg to continue our advice of the 27th ultimo, since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Stocks as per circular of	27th ultimo, 1904	10th Aug. 1905
July 27th Imports per Malta	1.00	435
Aug. 31st " " New York	365	244
Aug. 5th " " A. A. Agave	1.00	3.80
Less Exports to Shanghai	1.00	1.70
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports (including Local Consumption for the fortnight)	1.00	0.95
Estimated Stocks this day	964	3,104

Bengal.—A good business has been done during the fortnight. Prices advanced to \$1,120 and \$1,082½ for Patna and Benares. The market, however, closes steady at \$1,112½ for Patna and \$1,067½ for Benares. About 100 chest, of New Patna have changed hands at \$1,140.00. Closing quotation is \$1,150.

Malwa.—Since our last there has been a fair business doing at the following prices. Market is quiet at the close.

New	\$1,200
2 years old	\$1,240
3 " "	\$1,290
4 5 " "	\$1,340
Oldest	\$1,400

Persian.—Steady.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 10th August, 1905, states:—If it were not known that there is no intimate cause for the stagnation of our market it might be taken as the natural course appertaining to this particular time of the year. It is, however, impossible to be deceived to that extent. Everything points to such a revival of the trade of the Country as has never been seen before, and that can but be the precursory movement in that direction, equivalent to "the calm before the storm." Needs before has the Country been so ready and willing to take goods, and demand must triumph in the long run, especially if supply is not excessive. In the meantime attention is attracted to the North, where, thanks to the prompt action taken by an enlightened and energetic Viceroy, interference with trade, no matter with what Country, has been interdicted, and the best interests of, not only the trade, but the whole Country, have been served. Tientsin appears to be the one market with any life and energy, and a fair amount of business is being done there; and at the same time, it may be said, energetic steps are being taken to wear away the trade hitherto done through the medium of this too easily controlledemporium. The same Viceroy has authority over the Newchwang district, so it is hoped trade there will not be affected. Meanwhile the mix up here is so interfering with trade generally that the local Foreign Chamber of Commerce have thought it advisable to call the attention of the Foreign Consuls to the subject, and we understand it is being made the subject of discussion by them today. The Peace negotiations which have commenced in earnest are not causing any great amount of excitement here, it being felt that Japan has the whip hand and can impose what terms she pleases. The longer a settlement is put off the more onerous the conditions will become, and the longer will her opponent be kept in a crippled and disorganised state. Trouble never comes singly, so it is not surprising that the poor remnants of trade left intact have been subjected to an almost fatal blow by the shipping difficulties, arising from a grievance they had with the Municipal Police, the consequence being that they refuse to work and the clearance and shipment of cargo has been suspended for the last two days. Fortunately a change in the weather has taken place and made it more possible to face these

little annoyances with some amount of equanimity. The home markets are not in a position to be dealt with, which is some consolation. Cotton, though not very steady, keeps high, the latest quotations from Liverpool being 5.94d. for Mid American and 8½d. Egyptian. A telegram appeared in one newspaper here yesterday that there was a panic on the Liverpool exchange, but we have failed to get any confirmation. The export of plain Cottons for the fortnight ending 3rd instant was 15,000,000 yards. Piece Goods. The Auctions continue to enjoy the lion's share of the transactions from stock, but the prices realised do not show any great buoyancy. With the exception of a few small indents for special makes of Fancy goods forward business is at a standstill. Clearances, in some quarters, of English goods keep fairly satisfactory, and it is even rumoured that some American goods have found buyers from the North. The market for Yarns is not very active but prices are well maintained. Native Cotton is easier. The new crop looks very promising, but it will be about two weeks later it is expected than usual.

AMOY CUSTOMS RETURNS.

AUGUST 14TH, 1905. List of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Custom House from 5th August to 11th August, 4 p.m., 1905:—

Imports.	Quantity
Cotton Raw, Indian	pls. —
" " Native	13
" " Yarn	885
Shirtings, Grey	pes. 310
T-cloths	800
Shirtings, White	625
T. Red Shirtings	60
Drills	17
Shirting Dyed, Broad	17
" Dyed	17
Damasks	60
Camlets	60
Lastings	—
Spanish Stripes	yds. —
Lustres, Figure	—
Lead, in pigs	pls. —
Tin in slabs	354
Iron, Nail rod	20
Quicksilver	10
Iron, Old	—
Ironwire	—
Rice	3,772
Opium, Patna	—
" Benares	56
" Persian	18
" Malwa	1
" Szechuan	5
" Yunnan	7
" Kiangsu	—
Sesamum Seed	237
Sapanwood	—
Sandalwood	—
Rattans	30
Wheat	2,173
Flour	3,081
Beans	—
Beans and Peas	4,023
Bicho de Mar	12
Mats Tea	pes. 20,400
Oil, Kerosine American	gal. —
" " Sumatra Bulk	98,420
Cord	—
Tobacco Leaf	pls. 165
Vermicelli	38

EXPORTS.

Exports.	Quantity
Sugar, White	pls. 60
" Brown	530
" Candy	93
Hemp Bags	pes. —
" Sacking	1,950
Paper, 1 Quality	pls. 100
" " "	—
Tobacco, Prepared	—
Kittysols (umbrellas)	pes. —

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Ajar*, sailed on 7th August. For Constantinople:—15 packages tea, &c. For Smyrna:—4 cases rhubarb. For Messina:—10 bales waste silk. For Havre or Hamburg:—30 boxes bristles. For London:—100 cases narcissus bulbs, 3,740 packages tea, 184 bales canes, 1,393 packages breckers, 58 cases chinaware, &c., 210 bags copra, 100 casks ginger, 41 packages effects and sundries, 193 bales feathers. For London or Hamburg:—20 cases essential oil, 89 bales canes, 45 cases bristles. For Glasgow:—7 packages effects. For London or Continent:—276 bales feathers, 20 bales canes. For Rotterdam:—50 casks wood oil, 35 rolls matting. For Antwerp:—65 bales feathers, 36 bales canes.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on 12th August. For London:—3 packages curios, 6 cases cigars, 234 packages tea (from Amoy), 220 packages tea (from Foochow), 10 packages cassia, 165 bales waste silk, 2 bales twine, 5 bales Persian opium, 2 packages sundries, 25 packages lychees, 95 bales raw silk, 1 case silks. For St. Chamond:—6 bales raw silk. For Milan:—80 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—270 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk, 217 bales raw silk, 2 cases feathers, 75 bales cocoons. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios, 1 package silk piece goods.

Per P. & O. steamer *Japan*, sailed on 17th Aug. For London:—224 bales hemp, 145 rolls matting, 5 cases hair, 12 cases camphorwood trunk, 50 cases bristles, 2 cases chinaware, 50 bales white silk, 3 cases sundries, 20 cases essential oil. For Antwerp:—13 bales leaf tobacco, 5 packages hemp cloth. For Glasgow:—16 cases woodware, 2 cases copperware, 1 case chinaware. For Marseilles:—9 bales human hair, 50 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 18th August, 1905.—We have nothing of any importance to report: the market continues dull but rates keep very steady. The release of dividend money has caused a small investing demand for some few stocks, but the absence of forward contracts is much curtailing general business.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled very quiet and neglected. Small local sales have been effected at \$912.50, the market closing at that rate. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have further advanced to \$740 with sales and buyers. China Traders have changed hands and close in some small demand at \$75. Cantons have been placed at \$330 and more shares are wanted at that rate. Yangtszes and North Chinas quotations are taken from Shanghai, there having been no local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have ruled steady with small sales at \$333 and \$335. Chinas continue on offer at \$85 without inducing buyers to come forward; the rate has dropped to \$84 with a small sale.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are enquired for at \$26 ex div. of \$1 paid on the 16th inst., but although very few shares seem to be available buyers refuse to raise their limit. Indo-Chinas have ruled comparatively quiet with small sales at \$96 for settlement and \$95 and \$95½ cash; the market closes at \$94 sellers, and buyers at \$95½. All other stocks under this heading call for no notice.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed during the week to a limited extent at from \$245 to \$249 cum div. (\$10 paid to-day). At time of closing the market is firmer at \$233 with sales, after a sale at \$231 ex dividend. Luzons are weaker with sellers at the reduced rate of \$15.

MINING.—Raubs have slightly improved to \$31 after small sales at \$3.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued to improve, and sales have been effected at \$198 to \$211, at which latter rate the market closes with sellers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have found further buyers at \$102½. Farnhams have been placed locally in fair lots at Tls. 131 and 138, while a small forward business for December has been done at Tls. 145 and 144; the latest quotation from Shanghai is Tls. 138 sellers, 137 buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands, in the absence of sellers, have further advanced to \$127, at which rate shares have changed hands and are still wanted in small lots. Hotels have advanced to \$150, after sales at \$148 and \$149. West Points and Kowloon Lands remain unchanged. Humphreys have been placed at \$12, but close with buyers at that rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have been placed both locally and to Shanghai at Tls. 52, but the latest buying rate from Shanghai is Tls. 50 and the local demand has ceased. Quotations for the Northern Mills are taken from Shanghai.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been placed at \$28. Steam Waterboats at \$13½ and \$4. Watsons at \$13.50. Bell's Asbestos E. A. have improved to \$7 with sales, and United Asbestos to \$9 buyers. Electrics rule weaker at \$15 old, sellers and \$9½ new, sellers. South China Morning Posts have declined to \$20.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

QUOTATIONS.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$912½, sales
National B. of China	\$5	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11.75
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 50
Hongkong	\$10	\$15½, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 45
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 56
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 200, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$17, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 138
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$102½, sales & sel.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$201, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$17
Shai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 107½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$28, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$28
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$9½, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$212½
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$150, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$237½, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterbat	\$10	\$14, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$330, sales & buy.
China Fire	\$20	\$84, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$75, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 82
Union	\$100	\$740, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$172½
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$127, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12, sales & buy.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 122
West Point Building	\$50	\$56
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fes. 250	\$400
Raubs	18 10	\$31, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$233, sales ex div.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$20, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35, sellers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$26, buyers ex div.
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$96, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	21s., sellers
Do. Preference	\$10	\$8, 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$33, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$25, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$5½	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$8
Do. New	\$3	\$7½, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$7, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13½, sales & buy.
United Asbestos	\$1	\$9, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending August 10th, 1905, states:—The principal feature of the market during the past week has been large transactions in Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. Ltd. shares. A strong attempt was made to raise the rates on the declaration of 6 per cent. interim dividend just declared. Although very large numbers of shares changed hands, only a rise of Tls. 5 ensued from the opening of the market to today's closing rate. The T.T. rate on London today is 2 7½. Banks.—No business reported. Marine & Fire Insurance.—The only business reported is in Yangtze Insurance at \$172.50. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas have remained steady during the week at Tls. 66 and 66½ for cash and August, Tls. 67 for September, Tls. 68 for October, and Tls. 71, 70 and 70½ for December. At closing the market is easy with sellers for December. Shanghai Tugs (Pref.) shares have been done at Tls. 50. Docks & Wharves.—

S. C. Farnham, Boyds have remained steady during the week. Cash at Tls. 141, August Tls. 142, 144, and 143; September Tls. 145; December Tls. 149, 148½ and 148. At closing the market is easier with sellers forward. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. The market rose from Tls. 192½ to 200 cash on the declaration of the dividend mentioned above, and forward rates, September Tls. 196, 195, 197½, 198½, 202½, 205, and 201; October Tls. 198, 197, 197½, 202½, 205, 204½, 206, and 202½. For November Tls. 201; December Tls. 200, 208½, 205, 206, 210, 207½, 210, and 207. At closing the market is weaker and forward shares are offering. Sugars.—China Sugars have been placed at \$235, Peraks at Tls. 68 cash and Tls. 74 December. Mining.—Chinese Engineering have been placed at Tls. 7.60. Weihaiwei Golds at \$10 and 950. Lands.—No business reported. Industrial.—Laon Kung Mow have been placed at Tls. 60 for December and Tls. 55 cash. Ewos Tls. 40 cash and Tls. 50 for August. Soy Chees at Tls. 200. Gas Tls. 122½. Långkats. The market has been very quiet during the week, opening with sales for August and September at Tls. 190. The September rate fell to Tls. 189 and 188. October at Tls. 191½, 191, and 190. November Tls. 193½ and 192½. December Tls. 195 and 194. The market is quieter with sellers forward. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 68. Anglo-German Brewery Shares have been done at \$118. Stores & Hotels.—Astor House at \$31.50. The directors announce that they propose to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. for last year out of the divisible balance of \$87,344, with \$14,516 to reserve and carry forward \$9,028. Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 17. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 59 and Horse Bazaars at Tls. 80. Loans & Debentures.—Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. debentures at Tls. 99.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 21st August.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	111½
Bank Bills, on demand	111½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	111½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	111½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	111½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	111½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	243
Credits 4 months' sight	246½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	197½
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	144
Bank, on demand	144½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	144
Bank, on demand	144½
ON HONGKONG.—Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	94½
ON MANILA.—On demand	94½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	8½ p.c.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	115½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	4 p.c.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	Par.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	62
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.30
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$53.90
BAR SILVER, per oz.	28

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 11th August.—Business remains dull, and freights in most directions have declined. From Saigon to this, 9 cents offering for medium sized carriers to one port Philippines, 26 cents last. North Coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents has been paid for August loading. Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.25; to Swatow, \$1.50. From South Japan coal port to Hongkong, \$1.25; to Singapore \$1.35 per ton.

The following are the settlements:—

Thyra—British steamer, 2,244 tons, Kutchinotau to Singapore, \$1.35 per ton.
Fausang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Hongkong to Swatow, \$1.50 per ton.
Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Hongkong to Swatow, \$1.50 per ton.
Blackheath—British steamer, 1,719 tons, two ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul, (wet Sugar).
Singau—British steamer, 1,017 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, (25,000 piculs), 26 cents per picul.
Broholm—Danish steamer, 817 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul.
Jenfeld—German steamer, 690 tons, Saigon to Hailo, (18,000 piculs), 28 cents per picul.
Emma Luyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, monthly, 3 months, private terms.
Triumph—German steamer, 769 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$6,000 per month.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August—ARRIVALS.

10, Anamba, Danish str., from Bangkok.
 10, Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, M. Struve, German str., from N'chwang.
 11, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 11, Hermann Menzell, Ger. str., from Chefoo.
 11, Indrasamha, British str., from New York.
 11, Palancotta, British str., from Rangoon.
 11, Scandia, German str., from Hamburg.
 11, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 11, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
 12, Eastern, British str., from Australia.
 12, Hercules, Norwegian str., from K'notzu.
 12, Ichang, British str., from Swatow.
 12, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 12, Lydia, German str., from Wuhu.
 12, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Hoihow.
 12, Silda, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 12, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 12, Tainan, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 12, Zoroaster, British str., from Moji.
 13, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 13, Hue, French str., from Kwangchauwan.
 13, Kulsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Saint Hugo, British str., from Amoy.
 14, Dagmar, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Germania, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Helene Menzell, Ger. str., from Moji.
 14, Hongwan I, British str., from Straits.
 14, Kampot, French str., from K'chauwan.
 14, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Pekin, British str., from Bombay.
 14, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 14, Zaffo, British str., from Manila.
 15, Barotse, British str., from London.
 15, Bengloe, British str., from London.
 15, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 15, Empr. of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 15, Persia, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 15, Stentor, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Ceylon, British str., from London.
 16, Fri, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 16, Japan, British str., from Japan.
 16, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 16, Pakhoi, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Pelus, British str., from London.
 16, Peshawur, British str., from Kobe.
 16, Preussen, German str., from Bremen.
 16, Suogiang, British str., from Iloilo.
 16, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
 17, Dagny, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
 17, Feiching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 17, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 17, Helene, German str., from Tourane.
 17, Idomeneus, British str., from Foochow.
 17, Ithaka, German str., from Yungtze.
 17, P. Andrejeff, Danish str., from Shanghai.
 17, Pelayo, British str., from Tientsin.
 17, P. Heinrich, German str., from Shanghai.
 17, Proteus, Norw. str., from Tamsui.
 18, Aldgate, British str., from Moji.
 18, Amigo, German str., from Hoihow.
 18, Brand, Norw. str., from Chinkiang.
 18, Drufer, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 18, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 18, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 18, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 18, Hinsang, British str., from Tegal.
 18, Hyades, Amr. str., from Tacoma.
 18, Ormidale, British str., from Kobe.
 18, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 19, Aragonia, German str., from Portland.
 19, Changsha, British str., from Sydney.
 19, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Eiger, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
 19, Frya, Norwegian str., from Antwerp.
 19, Haim, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 19, J. Diederichsen, German str., from Pakhoi.
 19, M. Riekmers, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Onsang, British str., from Samarang.
 19, Pocahontas, British str., from Colombo.
 19, Promise, Norwegian str., from Anping.
 19, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.

August—

DEPARTURES.

11, Capri, Italian str., for Bombay.
 11, Cheangchow, British str., for Kobe.
 11, Doric, British str., for San Francisco.
 11, Glenfallch, British str., for Amoy.
 11, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 11, Progress, German str., for Shanghai.
 12, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
 12, Arabia, German str., for Portland.
 12, Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
 12, Coromandel, British str., for Europe.

12, Glenroy, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Indrasamha, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Indrawadi, British str., for Manila.
 12, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Pakhoi.
 12, Kolsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 12, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 12, Marionethshire, Brit. str., for Nagasaki.
 12, Oscar II., Norwegian str., for Moji.
 12, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 12, Strombus, British str., for Pulo Sambo.
 12, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 13, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tam-ai.
 13, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 13, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 13, Hsieh Ho, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 13, Indravelli, British str., for Chefoo.
 13, Jengfeld, German str., for Saigon.
 13, Kalgan, British str., for Hongay.
 13, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 13, Lydia, German str., for Canton.
 13, Ningchow, British str., for Cebu.
 13, Shantung, British str., for Sourabaya.
 14, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 14, Talisman, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 15, Arratoon Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
 15, Eastern, British str., for Yokohama.
 15, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 15, Kampot, French str., for Macao.
 15, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
 15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 15, Lisa, Swedish str., for Sourabaya.
 15, Pekin, British str., for Moji.
 15, Shantung, British str., for Sourabaya.
 15, St. Hugo, British str., for Calcutta.
 15, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 15, Tainan, British str., for Australia.
 15, Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Wosang, British str., for Tientsin.
 16, Barotse, British str., for Nagasaki.
 16, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 16, Emma Layken, Ger. str., for Samarang.
 16, Hercules, Norwegian str., for Kuchinotzu.
 16, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Palancotta, British str., for Rangoon.
 16, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 16, Peshawur, British str., for Rangoon.
 16, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 16, Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Scandia, German str., for Yokohama.
 16, Zweena, British str., for Singapore.
 17, Anamba, Danish str., for Bangkok.
 17, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
 17, Bonbour, French str., for Saigon.
 17, Ceylon, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Chinkiang, British str., for Chinkiang.
 17, Eclipse, British ship, for Whampoa.
 17, Ichang, British str., for Taintau.
 17, Japan, British str., for London.
 17, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
 17, Pelus, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Persia, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
 17, Silda, Norwegian str., for Sourabaya.
 18, Bengloe, British str., for Nagasaki.
 18, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 18, Feiching, Chinese str., for Canton.
 18, Fooshing, British str., for Samarang.
 18, Fri, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 18, Germania, German str., for Sydney.
 18, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Idomeneus, British str., for London.
 18, Ithaka, German str., for Canton.
 18, Manchuria, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 18, P. Andrejeff, Danish str., for Singapore.
 18, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.
 18, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 18, Zoroaster, British str., for Christmas Isl.
 19, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
 19, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
 19, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
 19, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Netherton, British str., for Rangoon.
 19, Pelayo, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Triumph, German str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Shanghai for London, Messrs. D. W. Bell, Mrs. Carlsen and infant, Mr. C. B. Camm; for Gibraltar, Mr. Leo. Benson; for Bombay, Lieut. O. M. H. Anson; for Hongkong, Messrs. Felix Lexinger and S. Settle; from Yokohama for Melbourne, Mr. and Miss Moffatt; for Marseilles, Mr. H. W. Booth.
 Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Mrs. E. Rollins, Engr. Lieut. H. F. Bell, R.N.

Messrs. E. G. Ferguson, A. Fraser, J. G. Metcalf, F. Dodwell, Mrs. E. Egan, and Mr. W. C. Nason; from Yokohama, Surg. and Mrs. J. Mowat, Miss Mowat, Mr. and Mrs. Samaya, Master Samaya, Messrs. M. Samiya, E. H. Sharp and J. W. Jameson; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Goety; from Nagasaki, Messrs. T. B. Garrison and J. M. Etmer; from Shanghai, Messrs. A. Wortmann and A. W. Baum, Capt. Lundholm, and Lieut. A. S. Nugea, R.A.

Per *Preussen*, for Hongkong from Bremen, Messrs. Max Cheringer, Rud. Bastubbe, Herm. Boehme, Mrs. Drucet, and Mr. Max Stilizinski; from Southampton, Mrs. J. Canolly; from Genoa, Messrs. Determann, Alfr. Watench, Henry Clasen and Fritz Warth; from Colombo, Mr. E. H. Denicke; from Penang, Prof. Dr. Preuss and Miss D. Barrington; from Singapore, Mr. Hans Specht, Mrs. A. Ritchie and daughter, Messrs. Brettschneider and A. Sayu; for Manila from Genoa, Mr. Rud. Lierewski.

DEPARTED.

Per *Doric*, for China and Japan ports, Messrs. A. Calnen, M. Thos. Rooper, Dr. G. E. Goode, Messrs. J. T. Fisher, G. L. Brockman, W. H. Brennan, Miss M. Brincard, Mr. Thos. W. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. R. Baxter, Mr. J. Robinson, Dr. J. S. Hough, Mr. H. Kita, Mrs. D. Braeckman, Mr. Wm. Dabny, Mrs. H. Scott, Major and Mrs. D. S. Stanley and child, Messrs. C. C. Cooper and P. J. Fitzgerald; for San Francisco, &c., Messrs. M. Sorensen, R. McCollough, Chas. B. Warren, W. Laurence Gunther, E. A. Rowe, Wm. F. Bockin, Wm. L. Hay, E. Wech elberg, E. M. Owry, Wm. Rosenfield, Geo. E. Lorenz, W. J. Fisher, Wm. P. Pettus, S. Wolff, L. Morgan Brown, John Dow, J. Bierens, W. J. Kehoe, Miss May Kehoe, Miss A. Slater, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. D. Knight and child, Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Thomas, and Capt. S. F. Bottoms.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Dr. Chadwick Kew; for Bombay, Mr. Geo. Hogg; for Colombo, Lieut. Chandler; for Gibraltar, Mr. Camella d'Almeida Pessanha; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. H. Weston; for London, Messrs. S. J. R. Perrett, J. B. Fox, C. W. Finch, George Sole, and Miss Edith Lysener.

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